

# THE HILL

## Fire Support Base 411

The "Hill," Fire Support Base 411, as it was known, became a home away from home for the officers and men of the 3rd Battalion 1st Infantry and D Battery 6th Battalion 11th Artillery. It was a place to get clean, eat hot chow and relax for short periods of time.

As so aptly stated by LTG Harold G Moore and Joseph L Galloway in "**We Were Soldiers Once.....and Young**," "Another and far more transcendent love came to us unbidden on the battlefield, as it does on every battlefield in every war man has ever fought. We discovered in that depressing, hellish place, where death was our constant companion, that we loved each other. We killed for each other, we died for each other, and we wept for each other. And in time, we came to love each other as brothers. In battle our world shrank to the man on our left and the man on our right and the enemy all around. We held each others lives in our hands and we learned to share our fears, our hopes, our dreams as readily as we shared what little else good came our way."

This is what the "Hill" 411 Association is all about. Those of us who made the decisions hurt and wept like everyone else when a fellow soldier was hurt and sometimes we hid our feelings but sometimes we didn't. No matter how our battles were fought we all left a piece of ourselves there in the jungle and the rice paddies. All of us remember the good times and try to forget the bad and ugly times and through our association we may be able to heal some of our wounds by our camaraderie. In a small attempt to tell the story of what we were doing over there on Hill 411 the following sketchy history has been abstracted from the declassified combat reports of the Americal Division, The 3rd Battalion 1st Infantry, and D Battery 6/11 Artillery, located at Carlisle Barracks for the period January 1969 to October 1971. Also the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

The Americal Division was engaged in extensive combat operations to protect the population and deprive the enemy access to population centers. ARVN Divisions were being trained to eliminate NVA forces but with a primary mission to eliminate the local VC infrastructure. Our Division was commanded by MG Charles M Gettys, BG Howard Cooksey was the ADC and Col John W Donaldson was the 11th Brigade Commander. The 3rd Bn 1st Inf was commanded by LTC William McCloskey who was replaced by LTC Walter L Pritchard who was killed in action on 12 April 1969; LTC George V Ellis assumed command on 21 April 1969, while in the interim, Major Virgil W Ogelsby, the Battalion Executive Officer commanded the Battalion.

The 3rd Bn 1st Inf was engaged in Operation Iron Mountain in Quang Ngai province. The 11th Brigade and 4th ARVN Regt operated in the AO to secure population centers along the coastal plain and to close with and destroy VCMF/VCLF forces and the 2nd NVA Division operating in the western mountains. From 30 March 1969 to 4 April 1969 a preemptive operation was made by the 3/1 Inf along with 4/4 and 3/4 ARVN Regiments by moving to the plains northeast of Duc Pho, targeting suspected elements of the 22nd NVA Regt and 97th VCMF Bn who were thought to be massing for an attack on Mo Duc and Duc Pho. On 29 March 1969 in a day long battle supported by gunships, tactical air and organic artillery, C and D company made heavy contact with an UNSEF northeast of Duc Pho at BS8204 killing 11 NVA. The enemy withdrew with no further contact.

On 28 March 1969 Col Jack L Treadwell a CMH winner and a veteran of WWII and Korea, assumed command of the 11th Brigade from Col John W Donaldson who became the Division Chief of Staff. During April and the first two weeks of May enemy activity was characterized by harassing fires and light contact. The 22nd NVA Division was conducting reconnaissance SE of Quang Ngai city preparing for an attack on the city by 19 May 1969 [Ho Chi Minhs Birthday]. Early on the morning of 12 May 1969 a coordinated attack was made by the enemy on all Landing Zone's and District headquarters. Elements of the 3/1 Bn continued to conduct reconnaissance in force operations in the Nui Sang Mountains and the

Southern portions of the 11th Brigade AO.

On 2 July 1969 F Troop 1st Cav and A company engaged an UNSEF at BS841294 resulting in 15 NVA killed, 3 RPG's and 4 AK-47's were captured. Documents showed them to be a part of the 2nd MF Regt 3rd NVA Div. As a result of these actions, SSGT Joseph H. Kelly and SGT Bobby L. McCoy were killed. Also on 2 July 1969, B Company engaged an estimated reinforced NVA Company at BS8426 and after a 5 hour battle, 20 NVA were KIA and 4 individual and 4 crew served weapons were found. On 7-9 July 1969 the Battalion air moved into the Nui Tam mountains to conduct operations west of the 1/20 Inf Fire Control Area.

On 8 July 1969, A company combat air assaulted to a cold LZ at BS539732 and began construction of Fire Support Base 411. In conjunction with elements of the 4th ARVN Regiment, the rest of the battalion conducted a series of combat sweeps to neutralize the area and then returned to FSB 411. At 0120 on 11 July A company on FSB 411 took 4 RPG rounds from the vicinity of BS547738, Artillery was called on the suspected location. A company found a hole in the perimeter fence and repaired it without any casualties. At 1910 hours later in the day, Recon Platoon spotted 6-8 VC at BS754365, C company and Recon platoon fired at the VC with unknown results. Kevin J. Reilly was med evacuated with shrapnel wounds caused by an M-79 round exploding as it left his weapon. At 2120 hours A company on FSB 411 took 16 VC under fire who were trying to penetrate the perimeter. No casualties were sustained.

12 July saw Recon platoon spotting VC at BS746354 and BS748357, also during the day C company found two huts and one AK-47 at BS745351. That afternoon at 1830 hours C company spotted a VC in the open at BS758354 and called in artillery fire on the location. At about the same time A company on FSB 411 received two 82mm mortar rounds and a ground probe of the perimeter. There were no casualties during the attack.

13 July was a bad day for D company as Jerry Rose was killed and W B Blackmen was wounded at BS741333 by friendly fire. B company at 0840 hours tripped a booby trapped 81mm or 105 howitzer round at BS790340

killing Jerry Manning and wounding Dempsey Brown and Esmael Ranirez. Earlier at 1640 hours D company received automatic weapons fire at BS742321. Artillery was called in on the enemy and contact was broken with no U. S. casualties.

On 14 July 1969, B and D companies engaged an unknown size enemy force at BS741319 and at BS753318 killing 6 NVA and capturing 2 individual weapons. During the fire fight George Johnson, Marcele Cruz and Drew Andrews were hit with small arms fire and med evacuated. While Edwin Allen, Ronald Thomas and Peter Drouhard were killed during the fire fight. Meanwhile Recon Platoon spotted 15 NVA at BS770364 which gunships attacked, killing 6 of the enemy. Also the same day FSB 411 received a ground probe from an UNSEF resulting in 4 VC KIA and 1 IWC. During the sapper attack on the FSB, one VC managed to breach the perimeter which resulted in Sgt Techmyer being wounded in the head and after being evacuated, died in the hospital. During the day C company at BS770381 engaged a dug in VC element in a fire fight which killed Joe Rodriques and Richard Scoonvezd while wounding James R Daniels, Earl Remmert, John Alsup, Richel Greco and Lawrence Osmet. At 2115 hours A company on the "Hill" received another attack of grenade, mortar and small arms fire resulting in Reynolds and Ramos being killed and Rhodes being wounded. Artillery and mortar suppressing fires drove the enemy back. A company sweep of the perimeter found no further enemy or destruction of the wire.

On 15 July, C company found an enemy hospital complex at BS740315, meanwhile A company on FSB 411 evacuated Micheal Windows for smoke inhalation. On 18 July 1969, B Company found 5 NVA KBA as a result of artillery fire called on suspected positions the day before. On 19 July 1969, D company engaged an estimated NVA company at BS720410 resulting in 6 NVA KIA, 3 IWC, and 1 CSWC. During this fire fight D company had Deutsch, Devney and Seecamp killed and Policastro, Chisley, Skaporas and Guerreo wounded. Captain Petty took over command of B company that day. Also the same day, B company engaged an UNSEF at BS723410 resulting in 5 NVA KIA, 1 IWC, and 1 CSWC. During B companies fire fight Rose was killed and Little, Wadsworth, Olson, Osgood,

Harless, Licus, Frentzel, Stasiak and Frank were wounded. Also during the day C company had Hazlet wounded. The following day B company received small arms fire and 12- 15 rounds of mortars while at BS731431 and D company found two RPG, one AK-47, 700 rounds of ammunition and bags of rice at BS720410. The battalion AO was quiet until the 24th, when B company had to evacuate Kenneth L. Randles with a badly sprained ankle. A company located on FSB 411 noticed Montagnards moving into the area as refugees.

On 27 July 1969, D Btry 6/11 Arty moved to FSB 411 to support the Battalion in its operations in the Horseshoe area. That day, the "Hill" received 7-8 75 mm Recoilless Rifle rounds killing Sgt Bertagna. Recon platoon came in contact with 10-15 VC at BS780335 and also tripped a booby trap at BS783378 wounding two men. On 28 July the Battalion jump TOC moved to FSB 411 while D company started to relieve A company on the "Hill." The following day C company and Recon platoon came to the "Hill" for resupply and refit. The rest of July remained quiet with the construction of FSB 411 continuing as a priority mission. On 30 July, FSB 411 received incoming small arms fire without any damage. The following day Capt Nelson evacuated an E7 from his company that had lost his memory. B company meanwhile engaged one or more VC and had three soldiers wounded by CHICOM grenades. Again the "Hill" received small arms fire and five 60 mm mortar rounds without any damage. B company while on patrol received one M-79 round wounding one soldier at BS533760. At 1135 hours, E Troop 1/1 Cav reported that a APC hit a mine at 567724 killing CPL Henry Polzin and wounding Leslie Eckenroth, James Lamm and Robert Brown. The relatively low level of activity by the enemy during the last weeks of July continued into the first 10 days of August. Scattered attacks by fire and light probes were the primary enemy activity.

On 1 August Recon Platoon had one man, Hicks killed and on 2 August the Charlie Charlie was hit by small arms fire and went down with the door gunner being wounded. D company evacuated Jackie A Frazier with a rupture and Melloy was wounded by small arms fire and one female VC was captured at BS533759. Meanwhile C company received small arms

fire and M-79 rounds and engaged 15-20 VC. During the fire fight the company captured one M-60 machine-gun, and the company commander and the S5 ARVN interpreter were wounded. At 1530 hours B company reported one VC killed at BS533757. At 1700 hours Captain Hill the battalion S2 and Sgt Arms of Recon Platoon were killed and Beaslers, Smith and interpreter Bes were wounded. Meanwhile D company tripped a booby trap wounding Rivera at BS546711. On 4 August C company engaged 4 NVA and 7 VC at BS516746 with unknown results. C company received small arms fire at BS516746 with no casualties and soon after they received fire from BS514756 and then while sweeping the area found one VC killed at BS513746. B company found three VC killed at BS542755 and while being resupplied the Battalion utility chopper was shot down with Herbut Hepburn being wounded.

The 5th of August was a busy day for C company when they spotted 14 VC in the open at BS503741 and called in artillery on them and at BS516746 received small arms fire and had one man wounded in the stomach. Later artillery fire was called in on 5 VC at BS507737 resulting in three VC killed. 6 August while on reconnaissance, B Company tripped a booby trapped M-79 round wounding Pike; Beach; Thompson; Raney; Sterk and Glass. D Company moved completely on to the "Hill" relieving A company who moved out on patrol. Recon Platoon again ran into booby traps which killed Jessie Hood. On 7 August A company evacuated John Holcomb with a cut to the head. Meanwhile D company on the "Hill" engaged four VC killing one at BS521723 and Recon platoon had Roy Nix fall into a hole and was wounded at BS549735. B company hit a command detonated booby trap at BS539758 wounding Henry Seals left foot and his right leg. Later at BS529758 the company killed two VC. That night B company started hearing loudspeakers playing "Where have all the flowers gone".

On 8 August Recon platoon while on patrol at BS557753 engaged an enemy force resulting in four VC killed and three AK-47's captured. At BS558741 Jessie Hood received a gunshot wound, while observing the action the Battalion Command ship was hit twice and the crew chief was wounded. B company meanwhile had one man killed and two wounded from enemy small arms fire at BS551753. At 1900 hours one of the track

vehicles from E Troop 1/1 working with C company was hit by RPG rounds wounding four men and killing Sp4 Charles Adams and one other man from C company at BS550754. On 9 August Lt Pike, who was back with B company received a minor leg wound from Shadow which was firing support fires for the company. The company found four VC killed at BS556751 and killed one VC and captured one AK-47. Recon platoon received small arms fire with no casualties. E troop 1/1 Cav working with C company had one vehicle hit with an RPG round on 11 August wounding four men and killing one other. The unit also killed four VC in the fire fight.

On 12 August, A company tripped a 105 artillery round at BS526741 which killed Dale Fruhling and wounded Larry Braullette and Gary Stephenson. The supply aircraft was hit while evacuating the wounded and the small arms fire killed Gary Stephenson. On 13 August 1969 enemy activity increased and A company engaged an NVA company at BS562743 resulting in 10 NVA killed. Also FSB 411 received 2 RPG rounds, 3 75mm Recoilless Rifle rounds and 3 60mm Mortar rounds with negative damage or casualties. Shark 5 while supporting A company was shot down at BS547747 with no casualties and Shark 16 was hit at BS545748 without any casualties At 1830 hours 13 August 1969 A company and B Troop 1/1 Cav engaged an unknown sized NVA force at BS562742 killing 10 NVA and capturing 12 individual weapons and 3 crew served weapons. The two units suffered 5 US KIA and 6 WIA including Sgt Jerry W. Ofstedahl of A company. The "Hill" again got hit by recoilless fire from the enemy receiving six rounds on the North side of the perimeter and later three more rounds from the West. Enemy activity slowed some but action took place each day.

The 14th of August saw A company at BS553745 hit with sniper fire and had George Del hit by five rounds. B troop 1/1 Cav at BS549750 had five men wounded and two killed from mines including SP4 Paul Ponce from A company. On 17 August C companies Oneal was wounded by a friendly M-79 round at BS536753. On 19 August, B troop 1/1/ Cav working in the area of BS578747 hit a booby trapped 500 pound bomb resulting in five U.S. soldiers wounded. A company, meanwhile at BS586745, had Christenson and Pennette wounded by 50 caliber fire. The following day D

company at BS500705 set of a booby trap resulting in one U.S. soldier wounded. On the 21st of August the "Hill" again received four 75 mm recoilless rounds without any casualties.

At long last on the 24th, A company went to Chu Lai for a rest and stand down, while C company received 3 rounds of sniper fire at BS518741 without any casualties. C company again received sniper fire on the 25th at BS518741 without any casualties and the "Hill" was visited by the Secretary of the Army who was impressed with what he saw and heard. On 26 August C company again encountered booby trapped 105 mm rounds at BS541738 killing PFC James D. Raychel, PFC Wilhimon Gardner and wounding one other soldier. They also had one man hit by shrapnel from friendly 81mm mortar fire. 27 August was a day of transition as A company came on to 411 from Chu Lai and B company went on stand down at Chu Lai.

On 29 August Captain Tyson was evacuated from the field to 411 and D company engaged 15 VC at BS460730 killing two. Meanwhile Recon platoon engaged an enemy force at BS520747. The following day B company found a hospital at BS496677 and destroyed it. Activity from then until the middle of September 1969 remained relatively calm. B company started September by capturing one VC at BS515665 without a weapon and on 2 September D company captured two VC females while on patrol at BS521748. That night in their night perimeter they received small arms fire without any damage. Although on 3 September, D company in the vicinity of BS525751 set off a mine wounding four men and killing Kardos and then had one man wounded by small arms fire.

On 4 September, Recon platoon engaged two NVA killing one at BS2672. 5 September was a busy day when A company at BS501656 engaged six VC, killing one, while Recon platoon found a hootch and killed one NVA as he tried to escape. D company as it moved back to 411 engaged 10 VC at BS525754 with unknown results. Again at BS520753 the company ran into booby traps wounding Roy Paul; Santos Ayala. On 6 September, D company moving on the "Hill" received mortar and small arms fire at BS566754 and tripped a booby trap wounding Wosnak; Derrington; Kuklewski; Walker; Boyce; Morrison; Holcom and Cady. Trusty and



Salvatore were killed in the attack. Headquarters and Headquarters companies Alsap was wounded and B companies Beach was also wounded. Also at BS540752 a booby trap wounded one man from D company. Meanwhile C company tripped a booby trap at BS566754 wounding one soldier. On 7 September, B company discovered a base camp which had been recently used as there was bloody clothing in the huts. C company meanwhile on patrol at BS547750 tripped 6-7 command detonated mines resulting in three U.S. soldiers being wounded.

On 8 September in the Horseshoe area, at BS529749 C company tripped a booby trapped 60mm mortar round wounding Hanson; Nash and Thomas. Also at BS544752 C company discovered a tunnel that contained 60mm mortar rounds, claymores, one RPG and five M1 rifles, one BAR, three SKS rifles and four AK-44 soviet rifles. The following morning Lt Grego was killed at BS539751 by a booby trap. Also D company at BS487662 received enemy small arms fire wounding one U.S. soldier. On 11 September a base camp was discovered by B company at BS522628 and was destroyed, and on 12 September, C company had two more men wounded at BS528752 by booby traps. On 12 September elements of the Battalion along with E Troop 1/1 and the 9th Engineers conducted land clearing operations in the Horseshoe and along the Song Tra Khuc river valley in the vicinity of BS5474. C company had one soldier wounded and SP4 Leo J. Broussard killed at BS528752 and on the following day at BS536740 killed one VC and found a tunnel with two 500 pound bombs at the entrance of the tunnel. The Engineers stopped working in the area as they couldn't handle 500 pound bombs. They were later blown in place by a Division demolition team.

The 15th of September, C company at BS531743 tripped a booby trap wounding one soldier. Meanwhile D company at their night defensive position engaged two VC killing both and capturing two AK-44 rifles. Enemy contact was light as the enemy withdrew to the west. Three base camps totaling 38 structures were located and destroyed at BS525644, BS522628 and BS507663. The land clearing operation continued until 3 October 1969 with some element of the Battalion providing security for the Engineers. On 16 Sept, LTC L J Stottle assumed command from LTC

George Ellis, that night a mortar attack on FSB 411 resulted in a preemptive night air assault undertaken to the mountains to the west of the FSB. On 18 Sept 1969 Col H F T Hoffman assumed command of the 11th Brigade. Later that night Col Jack Treadwell while flying to the Division Headquarters requested permission to check out of the Battalion net and was regrettably granted permission. Captain Walker went to the land of the big PX and Major Hameister became the Battalion S3. On 19 September B company engaged at least five NVA at BS553643. With the assistance of artillery and gun ships they killed three NVA men and one NVA woman who was wounded and captured but died before interrogation could be completed.

The remainder of September and October 1969 were relatively quiet with patrolling and security operations being conducted by the Battalion. D company engaged one VC approaching the "Hill" at BS534723 killing him. The body contained no unit identification. C company at BS586750 set off a booby trapped 500 pound bomb killing James Jaquish on 25 September and at 1635 hours on the 26th of September, the "Hill" received nine 75 mm RR rounds and three 82mm mortar rounds and D company conducted a combat Air Assault to BS496716. C company, 26th Engineers hit a mine in the Horseshoe at 0910 on the 28th of September killing Cooney, Glisson, Augusting and wounding Saninski. Later at 1825 hours A company spotted ten VC in the open at BS469691 they called artillery in on them with unknown results. The following day D company in the afternoon in the area of BS452760 and BS448758 found two 82mm mortar rounds which were blown in place, also some documents were located . On 30 September 1969 Recon platoon observed one NVA with a weapon, artillery was called in on him and Warlords gunships killed two VC in the same area at BS574747.

On the 1st of October, A company took seven NVA under fire killing two and wounding two others. One of the NVA was a female nurse as the documents captured indicted. While checking the land clearing operation on 3 October the Charlie Charlie received small arms fire but no one was hurt, just a pucker factor. On 5 October, C companies patrols detained one VC at BS450750 who claimed he was an ARVN soldier. They also found

two anti personnel mines at BS488749, the Command chopper again received small arms fire from BS488697 and the area was engaged with artillery fire. A company had Terry L. Barnes wounded on 6 October in both legs from sniper fire at BS473648. D company found a group of huts at BS500681 and the ARVN company working with the Battalion moved 240 refugees from the horseshoe to Tu My. On 7 October, Recon Platoon at BS489652, had enemy small arms fire kill Sheppard. B company picked up three VC suspects which turned out to be refugees at BS489744. On 8 October, Recon platoon patrolling at BS490645 received AK-47 fire which wounded Hoffman. Later at BS489646 the platoon found a VC camp with sleeping mats for twenty people. The following evening Recon platoon found another hootch at BS496645 but this one had a garden with it.

10 October was a busy day with C company finding bunkers and fighting positions at BS564730; D company caught three VC in the open at BS553669, artillery was called in resulting in one VC killed. A company found huts, documents enemy company posters, a map with trails marked on it. During a break, Rodolfo Villarrcal while getting up and using his rifle for a crutch shot himself in the foot. B company patrolling north of the river at BS475734 had four men wounded by booby traps. On 11 October one man was wounded in an accident with his M-16 rifle. The following morning B company detained one VC at BS438746. The 13th saw D company finding at BS545675 three 82mm mortar rounds which were destroyed. That afternoon B company was in a fire fight with an estimated VC squad at BS475775 with negative casualties. On 14 October in a fire fight Pfc Wieker was killed by an RPG round. He was transported back to the "Hill" by the Battalion CO who was in the air over the action. As B company engaged an enemy platoon at BS487758, there were two other soldiers wounded but not evacuated. On 15 October D company found four 60mm mortar rounds, one 105 round at BS640610 and destroyed them. Meanwhile B company found a fortress at BS464737 with ten rucksacks of rice which had been left in a hurry. The rice was destroyed.

On the 16th of October, B company at BS466746 came under small arms fire and booby traps claimed Robert Heilig and Joseph Holmes and wounding Pete and James Wolfe. Meanwhile D company destroyed two

booby traps at BS552727 and C companies Dreseen, fell down a bank and had to be evacuated. The following day, 17 October, Captain Kuelbs was wounded and D company at BS541752 found one M-26, a buckle, canteen and gas masks. Later they found 300-500 pounds of rice which was destroyed. At 1900 hours they engaged one VC at BS541752 with negative results. On 18 October at BS458732 B company came under small arms fire wounding Gunderson; Alberti and Pizzuto. Enemy casualties were unknown. On 19 October, D company engaged six VC at BS511745 as they tried to get across the river. The company killed four and captured two. At BS435743, Horbock was wounded by an M-79 round. At dusk Recon platoon found and destroyed a booby trapped 60mm mortar round at BS500652.

Then on 20 October D company operating in the area of BS435743 set off booby trapped hand grenade and a 105 mm round killing Jack Calamia and wounding Darl Johnson and Jim Shakelford. D company earlier had engaged one VC at BS447757 killing him. They then engaged five VC killing one at BS455756. The Sharks supporting the Battalion destroyed a camouflaged sampan at BS842390. The Battalion command ship took four hits one in the front bubble and right side, one in the engine and one in the stabilizer from small arms fire in the area of BS842390. We shut down on at 411 without any casualties except the door gunner who had a scratch from the flying plastic. On 23 October, B company reported one VC KIA who was a 22 year old female. Soon after they spotted eight NVA moving towards their location all in green fatigues four had weapons. They were engaged with artillery resulting in one NVA killed. Meanwhile C company detained four VCS, three were about 20 years old and one was 14 years old. They had various military gear on them, pistol belts, grenades and some documents. C company continued to spot sampans and on the 26th they fired artillery and got a direct hit on one.

The 28th of October the Recon platoon found a 60mm mortar round and destroyed it and B company found two hooches and two tunnels which they destroyed. There were two quiet days until the 31st when Recon platoon found a bouncing betty at BS524740 which had a stick across the trail to detonate it. It was destroyed in place. BG John Donaldson became the

ADC upon his promotion in September. November started with a bang with the enemy downing one of the Cav's LOH's at BS478725. One platoon of C company was lifted in to secure the chopper. "Warlord", the Cav commander directed artillery fire to protect the chopper and C companies men. One 105 round was called in on the platoon wounding Brown and Wehr. As the Battalion command ship moved to the area, it received small arms fire and was hit at BS480601. Meanwhile C company who was on the move received small arms fire at BS478724, where they found as they swept the area 25 K-44's, 5 U.S. carbines, 3 M1 rifles, 2 BAR's one 30 caliber machine gun and over 9000 rounds of ammunition. The enemy kept up the offensive by attacking C company on 4 November 1969 with 5 60 mm mortar rounds at BS468749. The " Hill " received mortar fire that night wounding Horton and on 5 November 1969 B company on FSB 411 received 6 75mm Recoilless Rifle rounds with no casualties. The following day C company found six buildings and pigs which were destroyed at BS474731. At about the same time the Recon platoon wounded one VC and capturing him near BS484713 but one other escaped . Nearby B company at BS478663 destroyed a booby trapped LAW. 3 November saw C company again receiving small arms fire at BS483734 but artillery being called in became erratic and firing ceased. Later that night, two more 75mm recoilless rounds landed near the supply pad wounding Jose Gonzales.

On 6 November 1969 at BS520724 as B company moved off the "Hill" they received a 122 mm Rocket round. During lunch that day the "Hill " had a 140mm Rocket hit without causing any damage except to the messhall when we all hit the floor. Two rounds went over the "Hill" and landed in the rice paddies beyond. Earlier that morning A company found two 55 gallon drums of rice at BS475760. At 1100 hours C company spotted five VC/NVA at BS459725 and prepped the area with artillery prior to searching it with negative results. Later at BS467728 they found two carbines, one AK-44 and one U.S. M1 carbine. Recon platoon on patrol on 7 November took three VC under fire at BS501689 and B company at BS456752 ran into an area that had around forty booby traps in it which they destroyed. On 8 November, D company engaged two NVA at BS462681 with negative results and C company spotted thirty VC with weapons at BS444744 where

they called in artillery on them. The following day D company engaged eight NVA at 0655 hours at BS452692, killing one and wounding two and then capturing him along with one SKS rifle and a 9mm pistol. 1600 hours the following day, C company at BS463705 spotted 15-20 personnel with weapons which they engaged with their own 81mm mortars killing two NVA confirmed.

On 11 November, C company was busy when at noon they found four 60mm mortar rounds, 11 CHICOM claymores and took two NVA under fire at BS460705. Soon after they found six 57 mm recoilles rifle rounds, 500 rounds of rifle ammunition, 36 60mm mortar rounds and two 250 pound bombs. All of which were blown in place. As they settled in for the night they found one SKS rifle at BS467705. On 12 November 1969 a Scout Helicopter was shot down at BS543953 and was secured by A company and later recovered. Meanwhile C company at BS448749 found blasting caps, documents and radios and then picked up three VC out of a tunnel after they tossed CS grenades in the tunnel. That afternoon they found more rice and a French machinegun at BS454753. The following day on the 13th C company found 2,500 pounds of rice at BS446754 and then at BS453764 they found one M2 carbine, one M1 carbine which were probably lost by the PF. On 14 November, D company working in the area of BS471715 had a booby trapped 60mm mortar round wound George Kinsey, Fowler; Jimmie Cook; and Albert Kidd. Later that day at BS471716 booby traps wounded Harold Paffer; David Bearden; Roy Billings; Norman Harpster; Frank Terry; Bradley McLain and Richard Zulka. A few moments later at BS472717 booby traps wounded Ned Howenstine; Joseph Gatzke and Fisher and Neifwonger. The following day the Battalion Charlie Charlie while on a supply mission received heavy ground fire and crashed at BS473717 and killed 5 US personnel on board consisting of the crew of Wilson; Duconnun; Hodgkin and Rigaladd and B companies Gunerson. D company meanwhile received small arms fire at BS468722 and at 1115 hours, B company was in contact with an unknown sized force at BS470700 with negative results and then at BS484704 they spotted three VC and called artillery on them. Major Jeff Goodin became the Battalion XO after having commanded the Brigades aviation support company.

The 16th of November, B company executed an ambush at BS467703 killing one NVA and at BS470703 they found an enemy base camp. Recon platoon on patrol at BS458700 observed an estimated NVA company and called in artillery fire on them. The following morning D company received small arms fire at BS467728 with negative casualties. On the 18th, B company at BS465704 engaged three VC and had one NVA killed by artillery fire. Continuous patrolling through the end of November was unproductive in finding major NVA units. On 20 November the Battalion command ship spotted a sampan at BS500744 and called in 4.2 mm mortar fire on it resulting in one VC killed. Meanwhile Recon platoon spotted 20 VC at BS455697 and called in artillery fire on them. The following day D company while on patrol spotted 15 VC at BS451765, they took them under fire with rifles and M-79 fire with negative results. The 22nd found D company spotting 4-5 VC at BS456758 and killing one NVA and capturing one U.S. caliber 45 pistol. The following morning at 0600 hours they spotted six VC in the river at BS446757 and found two killed from previous combat actions. Continuing their search on 24 November D company at BS446757 killed two VC in the river.

On 25 November, C company at BS524730 found the 75mm Recoilless rifle position that had been used to fire on to the "Hill" That became an artillery interdiction firings spot. Late that afternoon A company was in contact at BS575724 with negative U.S. casualties, however several refugees from Tu My were killed. The only action on the 26th of November was when C company found and destroyed a booby trapped 82mm mortar round at BS559735. On 27 November 1969, A company and 4 tubes from D Btry 6/11 Arty conducted operations west of the Ha Thanh Special Forces camp in an attempt to locate a POW camp. The operation ceased on 4 December 1969 without any major enemy contact. Meanwhile on the 27th, A company killed one VC at BS441740. The 28th saw D company receiving sniper fire at BS405625 with no casualties. The following morning as D company moved from its night defensive position they came under heavy fire at BS398619, using fire and maneuver, artillery fire and Air Force fighters they eliminated the enemy without any U.S. casualties but couldn't find any enemy casualties when they swept the area. At the same time C company found and destroyed a booby trapped 60mm mortar round

at BS426314. On the last day of the month, Recon platoon found a base camp at BS455633 and killed two VC as they tried to escape. D company observed three VC at BS412631 and took them under fire with unknown results.

At 0930 hours on 1 December 1969 C company found a large weapons cache on the mountain west of FSB 411 in the vicinity of BS451747 consisting of 35 individual and one crew served weapons. They also found two hooches 30' X 15' and 10' X 8' and five fighting positions, 300 pounds of rice, 50 pounds of corn and a Russian bayonet, one NVA pack, one M2 U.S. carbine, the building and food were destroyed and the weapon sent to the "Hill." On 2 December a Dust Off was called for D companies Flakline who was wounded in the foot while cleaning his weapon. Meantime A company operating north of the Ha Thanh Special Forces camp found five VC in a tunnel, they engaged them with small arms fire and grenades and they received fire in return but the VC escaped thru another exit in the tunnel. On the 4th of December as the operation was being wrapped up, A company found seven graves, one a few days old, others several weeks old. Bodies could not be determined to be VC or not. In the same area they found a tunnel 6' X 6' 100 meters long with bamboo, steel and wood cages which had been used in the last two weeks. It may have been part of the POW complex we were searching for. The Special Forces kept it under observation without any further results.

On 5 December, B company found and destroyed 10 bunkers at BS450690 with 4 structures, 6 bunkers and 6 tunnels. Later at BS454683 the KCS spotted a VC ambush. B company sent a platoon on a flanking movement and spotted five VC evading. They engaged the enemy with small arms fire resulting in one VC killed and one machete captured. At BS459683 B company observed six VC evading north. They found an old base camp being rebuilt with several ladders leading to holes in the ground. The trails in the area had natural barricades in trees and vines to channel the U.S. forces where they could be ambushed. There were ten bunkers to sleep 4-5 each, each bunker had a 6'X5'X2' overhead cover, ten sleeping holes 10'X12'X4' deep and had bamboo pipe lines to pipe water into the bunkers. C company picked up three VCS MAM at BS445751



hiding in buildings. At BS466759 they found 40 AK-47 rounds in a tunnel complex which had negative other findings. The command ship on a supply run to

B company received small arms fire at BS466724. A company believed it was 30 caliber fire and engaged the position with their 81mm mortars. B company soon after engaged two VC with LAW's and M-60 fire resulting in two VC killed. In the same area where B company was searching, they found one M-2 carbine, documents, malaria pills, food and miscellaneous clothing on 6 December. The weapon and documents were sent back to the Battalion CP. At 1830 hours 7 December 1969 (Pearl Harbor Day). B companies ambush at BS464697 engaged in a short but hot fight with 8 VC resulted in their killing 6 and capturing one weapon, documents, pistol belts, sand bags with rice and one magazine of AK-47 rounds were found.

On 8 December, A company found an old barber shop with barber tools and observed three VC with weapons which they engaged killing one VC and capturing one M16A1 rifle. The other two VC evaded east. After finding a booby trap in thick underbrush, they destroyed it finding that it was a CHICOM pressure type mine. Operating in the area of BS467724 and BS467725 they tripped booby traps wounding Riley; with fragment wounds to the left leg and throat and Rice; Krajicek and Jewell. With Haynie receiving chest and arm wounds. On 9 December, a KCS was disassembling a claymore and Thomas P Straiti received fragment wounds in the hand from the blasting cap. B company that day found a 15'X20' hootch that would sleep 4-6 people, also a rain coat, chalk, paper, copper rings all which had been recently used. It was destroyed. Later, A company found three graves less than a week old, one child, one female and one male 40 year old dressed in NVA kacki. All had fragment wounds to the head. On 10 December they discovered two new graves with two VC killed.

On 11 December, C company at BS608568 destroyed and enemy base camp consisting of 30 sleeping positions and 3 spider holes. A company reported that one VN child in Tu My village was burned by some type of demolition, a Battalion medic was sent over to the village to treat the child. On 13 December, the Recon platoon observed four VN in black pajamas

which they took under fire. There were two females 20-30 years old wounded and four VN detained. B company meanwhile engaged three VC with packs and weapons resulting in two VC killed and two AK-47 rifles captured with two CHICOM grenades, two packs and documents. B companies Robert E. Beaty had a trip flare go off in his face burning him and he was evacuated. On the 14th, Anthony Moreno had stab wounds inflicted to his abdomen while he was holding a knife towards himself and another person was accidentally pushed into him. The following day A company at BS483753 observed five VC evading which they engaged with small arms fire. One VC was possibly wounded and the company found an NVA pistol belt, a U.S. canteen cover, straw hats used for rice transport. On the 16th, A company at BS490755, received small arms fire and the fire was returned and two VC were killed. C company and Recon platoon working together at BS578627 destroyed one booby trap. In doing so two U.S. soldiers were wounded, only Ferguson from the Recon platoon was evacuated. The journal also shows that Gale from A company was also wounded from his own grenade fragments which he had thrown into a spider hole at BS473766. C company while at BS577624 destroyed one booby trap.

On 17 December, D company at BS460679 engaged one NVA with a weapon in a green uniform. A blood trail was found and a SKS with ammunition was captured but the enemy evaded to the east. On 19 December, C company again found 7 structures at BS508728 which contained 3 CHICOM rifles in one building. After a further search they found and evacuated 55 CHICOM hand grenades, 200 blasting caps, 74 feet of fuse, 30 pounds of explosives, documents and a 20 pound homemade bomb. Later at BS521731 they found three more caves and some tunnels and at BS500746 they found five sampans and sank them with M-79 rounds. Recon platoon patrolling on 20 December at BS530755 had Lt Morgan wounded by a booby trap. Lt Morgan had just joined the battalion and wanted to go out with the platoon. It was his first combat patrol and when he saw some punji stakes he ran forward to warn the platoon sergeant when he hit the booby trap which amputated both of his legs. The Battalion Commander had warned him to do only what the platoon sergeant told him until he had been out for awhile. The Battalion

XO, Major Goodin who was on the "Hill" took the command chopper and picked him up and flew him to Chu Lai. The only thing Lt Morgan was worried about was if the Battalion Commander would be mad at him. The next day I flew to the hospital but he had already been sent to Japan.

At 1950 hours C company observed five VC at BS522450 and engaged them with the 4.2mm mortar platoon tubes. Late that night C company found a booby trap factory at BS507729. It was a modern type facility in the mountain. On 21 December at BS515715 they engaged two VC and found two 57mm recoilless rounds and medical supplies. At BS513723 they found 500 gallons of rice. That afternoon B company on the "Hill" observed a group of people watching the "Hill" and they killed a five year old boy when they got close to the wire. On 22 December, the "Hill" was visited by an old friend of soldiers world wide. Patches Musgrave who was 80 years old then, visited the "Hill" talking to the troops while NBC filmed the visit and showed it later that month in the states. Patches was a news correspondent that had covered WWII, Korea and Vietnam. I was privileged to have met her both in Korea and on my previous tour with the 1st Cav Division. It was also duly noted in the journal that Santa Claus also visited the troops but didn't have any reindeer or sleigh with him.

Also the Recon platoon at BS589732 and BS583744 found five M16A1 rifles that they had lost on the 20th during the contact with the large force of NVA. Also D company destroyed a ton of rice and engaged seven VC near the river and C company at BS515729 received small arms fire from three VC with negative results on both sides. They also found Recon platoons ANPRC 25 radio that had been lost on the 20th.

On 23 December, C company at BS508718 received grenades and engaged the enemy with claymores with unknown results. On 24 December, B company at BS515750 killed one VC and captured one AK-47 rifle. All the companies closed in on the "Hill" and surrounding area and all operations stopped at 1710 hours for the holidays. After all the Battalion had circled the FSB for the Christmas holiday, the companies started back patrolling the AO. on 29 December. Recon platoon on 30 December 69 at BS449730 engaged 4 VC resulting in 2 VC KIA, one IWC, 3 packs, 50

blasting caps, 40 firing devices, 20 primers, one pair of field glasses and one CHICOM hand grenade along with documents were captured. From the end of December 1969 to its deactivation in October 1971 none of the Battalion Daily Journals can be found. However, the 11th Brigades S2-S3 daily journals were available at the National Archives and the rest of the history is based only on them and from the Americal Division after action reports lessons learned.

On the first of January 1970, B company and the Recon platoon went on a three day stand down at Chu Lai where the Division had a "China Beach" rest area. Starting this month daily bunker reports had to be submitted to the 11th Brigade which required a check of each plumb bob in the bunkers. Once in awhile some of the ground markers got moved so the bunkers didn't have to be rebuilt. It seemed in the journals that Sgt Winkle, Lt Lucas, Lt Kowoski, Capt Coe, Capt Gibbons and Lt Pike made most of the inspections, or at least their names showed up the most. The 4th of the month saw the first action by the Battalion when D company made an air assault to BS3351 which was cold and B company on its return from stand down killed one VC who had an M-79 at BS474737. Later at BS464737, they found newly implanted punji stakes and at BS463735 eight hooches that could sleep three people each were found and had been recently used. The next day they found five more hooches at BS462736 and destroyed all of them. The area was found to be lucrative as at BS481721 they found five graves. At BS471734 they captured one wounded NVA with an AK-47 and a rucksack. Shortly after at BS479727 an NVA base camp was located with one NVA killed by air. Meanwhile D company found a downed helicopter that had been stripped at BS769259 and at BS770252 they found a CH 47 ramp, ammunition and a dog tag of James D. Farnham.

On the 6th of January two B-40 rounds hit the "Hill" and Tu My reported that ten VC were inside the village and the hamlet chief was missing. Shadow, (a C130 Gunship) was called in to protect the village. That morning as A company moved towards the village, they received small arms fire at BS546732 wounding one U.S. soldier. The attack on the village resulted in five VN wounded and one RD cadre wounded. B company while at BS483731 saw three VC which they engaged with their

mortars. At 1815 that day medics and an artillery section person had visited Tu My village. On the way back Kayser found an M-26 grenade. He took it into the bunker on the "Hill," took it apart and assumed it was disarmed. After putting it back together, pulled the pin and tossed it to Sgt Butz. The grenade exploded killing both Kayser and Sgt Butz and wounding Maxwell and McMullian. 7 January found Recon platoon spotting one VC at BS465672 and C company detained two VC at BS455777 and then found a village at BS463777 with 100 women and children in it who were moved to Tu My. C company had the only activity on 8 January when at BS443761 they found a hole in the river bank containing medical and weapon supplies. At BS451762 they engaged two VC with artillery fire and at BS446772 they found three VN which they evacuated back to the "Hill." Later at BS495741 they received sniper fire with no casualties.

9 January had D company capturing a VC who had fragment grenades, and 41 M6 mines at BS771262. C company observed nine VC at BS444747 and called artillery fire on them and then at BS443763 they received sniper fire without any damage. Meanwhile B company sank a sampan at BS482761. Recon platoon on 10 January at BS483648 received AK-47 fire, they engaged the area and it became a stand off for several hours with out either side able to eliminate the other. C company again destroyed two sampans at BS449767 and engaged a VC who was running at BS451767. B companies ambush at BS481731 had a claymore blown, they found three blood trails but no bodies. Later they engaged VC in sampans with their 81mm mortars at BS473770.

On 11 January the "Hill" had a trip flare go off which was engaged with direct artillery fire and small arms fire with negative results. C company early in the morning received three M-79 rounds that didn't hurt anyone at BS473788. Continuing their search they found and evacuated two Vietnam civilians from BS463758. While engaging a VC at BS451770 they tripped a booby trap wounding four U.S. soldiers and two Vietnam civilians. The 12th was quiet except for D company who blew a booby trapped 81mm mortar round in place at BS816265 and at BS826285 they spotted two NVA with weapons but could not engage them due to the District refusing the action. The next two days the Battalion was engaged throughout the AO.

Starting on the 13th B company received 12 M-79 rounds and small arms fire at BS465750, they returned fire and called in gunships resulting in one NVA killed. Meanwhile the "Hill" received mortar and RPG fire and four soldiers were wounded while in their bunkers. The activity resulted in one NVA killed on the wire. A company meanwhile had one man wounded by his own fragment grenade when he tossed it but he wasn't evacuated. C company found a hootch and detained two females at BS462683 and at BS468681 blew a claymore without incident. B company found a parachute that was used to carry rice at BS466732 and the Recon platoon ambushed three VC at BS548747 killing two and capturing one AK-47 and one M-79. One U.S. soldier was wounded in the action.

On 14 January 1970, FSB 411 received 8 82 mm rounds without hurting a bunker or a person. Also the village was fired upon resulting in two VC killed, C company found 30 rounds of small arms ammunition at BS461687 and B company made contact with 6-10 VC at BS467744, they returned each others fire with negative results. A company right after lunch made contact with an unknown sized enemy force at BS507710. The company began its sweep and at BS509708 they received heavy small arms fire killing two soldiers, Kidwell and Morris and wounding three men. Gunships and Dust Off were called in and the command ship picked up one wounded soldier and three more wounded were picked up by Warlords slick as the Dust Off refused to go in to a hot LZ. The slick that picked up the wounded took hits but got back to the "Hill" where it shut down. A company moved an element to BS512708 and tried to get the two killed soldiers out but every time an aircraft went in it took heavy fire and prevented the pick up of the bodies. The company received fire all night. The following morning A company at BS509702 had two more soldiers wounded and evacuated. Finally at 1500 hours the two US soldiers that were killed were finally recovered. B company continued its sweep and at BS514704 engaged one NVA killing him and blew a booby trap near by. In the same area, the company had one man wounded with punji stakes and engaged three NVA killing one. The following day B company at BS515701 killed two NVA and captured two packs and grenades.

The Battalion AO was quiet until 21 January when B company found two

M-16 magazines and dog tags belonging to Eric Bogle and Lt Lawrence Anderson of Recon platoon. 22 January, C company ambushed three NVA killing them all and capturing one AK-47, three magazines and one M-26 at BS495677. Later they found one VC body and hooches at BS488698. B company received small arms fire at BS530758 and called in 4.2 mm mortar fire on the enemy. On the 23rd C company engaged three VC with artillery at BS495690. The 24th D company killed one VC at BS528732 and the following day they found a tunnel complex and a shell of a helicopter at BS747696. On 26 January 70 at BS670876 an OH- 6A helicopter received fire and was forced to land. A company secured it while it was being recovered. After securing the chopper A company went east over the mountain . D company working along the river at BS553757 spotted two sampans and killed five VC in the river. C company spotted 10-15 VC and called in 4.2 mm mortar fire at BS543721 killing only one VC. The rest were seen running on the other side of the river. On 28 January 70 at BS528657, A company found and destroyed two base areas with a total of 41 structures. Meanwhile C company at BS478687 received small arms fire wounding one soldier. They found spider holes, ammunition and other equipment in the area. That night the "Hill" had three grenades thrown at the perimeter without any damage. On 30 January, D company sank another sampan at BS543876. The following day D company observed four VC at BS551754. They killed one and three MAM were detained and evacuated along with their packs and equipment.

During February the Battalion conducted sweep operations in an attempt to locate the enemy. 1 February saw the "Hill" engaging an unknown sized force with M-79 and M-60 machine gun fire. B company engaged two VC at BS559713 with negative results and C company had a man hurt when he fell. On 2 February 70, C company engaged 8 VC killing 7 at BS513752. Later C company was ambushed at BS513719 by ten VC resulting in six U.S. wounded, killing Sgt Douglas L. Koning and two VC killed and confirmed. Two gunships and the command ship were hit during the battle and went down on the "Hill" with major damage to all three ships but no casualties. The Battalion command ship pilot told the Battalion Commander he was tired of flying him as every time he got in the ship it got hit. Following the C company ambush they found a modern grenade

factory with barbed wire around it at BS511730. Meanwhile D company at BS560759 observed five VC and killed one. The only action on 4 February was when Recon platoon engaged ten VC at BS483689. The following day C company detonated a booby trap at BS556715 wounding three men including a platoon leader. The command ship evacuated them to Chu Lai. 6 February A company at BS511715 and BS513710 found two VC flags, documents and one M-1 carbine.

On 7 February, A company found a base camp at BS510715 consisting of 6 structures. Among the miscellaneous military equipment was a radio, weapon and medical supplies an NVA flag with an unidentified designation 332 of 55 embroidered on it. On 8 February 70, D company killed 7 VC near BS513752 and A company found and destroyed 1,000 pounds of rice at BS515716. The following day, D company engaged three VC killing one at BS509747. The next morning as the company continued its sweep they received small arms fire wounding two men who were evacuated and one other man received minor wounds. No enemy casualties were found from the contact. 12 February 70 saw D company finding and destroying 12 structures and 12 bunkers near BS551653. The bunkers had bamboo pipes bringing water to them, there were weapon racks built in to the bunkers. Also in the complex they found small arms ammunition, RPG rounds and 60mm mortar rounds which were destroyed. The Recon platoon at BS479640 started receiving sniper fire early on the 12th killing SP4 Robert L. Walker Jr. Later at BS486606 they made heavy contact with ten VC resulting in four U.S. soldiers wounded and evacuated. The platoon found no dead enemy when it swept the area.

Activity was light until 18 February 70 when D Btry 6/11 forward observers caught a large force of NVA in the open and killed 21 in the vicinity of BS475740, and C company at BS466707 spotted five VC and killed one by artillery fire. They also found a 60mm mortar tube. The following day B company again observed six VC and killed one as they continued their sweep. As D company made its sweep at BS481735 they found two straw hats, two SKS rifles and ammunition. On 21 February 70, during another fire mission D Btry engaged the enemy in the same area at BS475740 killing 6 of the 14 seen. On 22 February, C company was the only one with



any activity when at BS450750 they found new tunnels being dug and at BS443741 engaged one VC as he ran from the area. On 23 February, A company air assaulted into a hot LZ at BS503640 with no injuries and C company found five fresh graves at BS455765. The night was quiet until three in the morning when the "Hill" received one 82mm mortar round and small arms fire without any damage to either side. 26 February saw C company contact five VC at BS480718 killing two before the VC broke contact. The following day A company was in contact again with an unknown sized VC force and had three soldiers wounded but found no dead enemy after the fire fight. Early on the morning of 28 February D company saw lights at BS540718 and when their mortars were fired on the lights they went out. Later that day B company called in artillery on three VC at BS504677.

The enemy avoided significant contact until 1 March 70 when C company engaged 6-8 NVA at BS460708 killing 5 without any U.S. losses. Continuing their search the company found bunkers and spider holes at BS455679 and hats and cooking utensils at BS463694. At BS455696 they engaged three enemy capturing one female VC nurse. Recon platoon meanwhile called artillery fire on five NVA with unknown results. The only action on 3 March 70 was when A company found a base camp at BS489640 and found two AK-47 rifles and at BS486649 killed one NVA and captured his AK-47 rifle. 5 March saw C company come into heavy contact at BS446678 with an NVA element. After about an hour of heavy fire from both sides the resulting aftermath had three U.S. soldiers wounded and evacuated and two NVA killed and two AK-47 rifles captured. On 7 March, after a quiet night, D company came into contact with an NVA platoon at BS085333 killing seven NVA and capturing three individual weapons. One U.S. soldier was wounded and evacuated while five other soldiers had minor wounds. The AO remained quiet until 13 March when at 1300 hours D company made an air landing at BS423394 which was hot. They killed one VC shortly after at BS423392 and they killed one NVA who had documents on him.

14 March 70 saw D company finding a hospital complex at BS415404 . Ten structures were destroyed and morphine, glucose, vitamin B-1 and 30

white uniforms were evacuated. The following day A company at BS436404 engaged a NVA squad killing all three and capturing three AK-47 rifles. Later at BS437409 they again came under heavy fire without any casualties on either side. Not until 17 March was there any enemy contact and that was when A company had four of its men wounded by small arms fire at BS437408 and later they received sniper fire at BS438416 and they managed to kill the NVA sniper. That day saw the Division Commander MG Ramsey and LTC Stottle's replacement visited the "Hill." Later that afternoon Col Hoffman, the Brigade Commander came to the "Hill" and informed us that MG Ramsey's aircraft had crashed in the fog killing the Battalion's new commander and one of the door gunners. MG Ramsey was injured and had to be evacuated and BG Donaldson took command until a new Division commander could be assigned. The following day D company had PFC Garland D. Benoit killed and one wounded by a booby trap and one man wounded by sniper fire at BS430415. Later that day they found a large school and hospital complex at BS436415 which they destroyed.

On 25 March 70 while on patrol, D company had 5 men wounded by a booby trapped hand grenade at BS470710. B company detained three MAM and two females and A company detained three MAM and five females. Five days later on 30 March 70, D Btry killed 5 more VC at BS488749. C and D companies moved into the Horseshoe to provide cover for the Engineers. On 31 March D company found huts and bunkers at BS466737 and while searching the complex a booby trap was tripped killing SP4 Harry Baker and wounding another. 1 April 70 saw A company while on FSB 411 receive eleven 82mm mortar rounds without major damage. Also Tu My received 82 mm mortar rounds at the same time. At 0750 hours the Recon platoon received small arms fire in their night defensive position wounding three soldiers but with only minor wounds. D company tripped a booby trapped 105 round wounding one soldier at BS498742. The next day the Recon platoon observed VC at BS445748 but could not engage them as the District Chief disapproved. At 1815 hours the platoon became engaged with a large enemy force at BS459728. They received small arms, automatic weapons fire and 60mm mortar fire during the attack. Forced to pull back they were able to evacuate the two

soldiers that were wounded. They left some equipment behind but recovered most of it the next day. As they moved out on 3 April they detonated a booby trap at BS459728 wounding two U.S. soldiers and one KCS. C company while in the Horseshoe at BS538750 received small arms fire.

On 4 and 5 April, C company found huts, a garden, tools and a booby trap made from bamboo and a bomb casing which they destroyed at BS5517545 and then tripped a booby trapped 60mm mortar round wounding one soldier. On 7 April 70, D Btry during 4 separate fire missions killed 13 VC and 4 NVA. On 8 April, C company tripped another 60mm mortar round wounding one soldier at BS525754. B company on 13 April received 5 CHICOM hand grenades resulting in 5 men of the company receiving minor injuries. On 14 April, A company detonated a booby trap at BS685570 wounding two soldiers, meanwhile C company at BS693588 found piles of newly harvested rice and booby traps in trees and on vines all over the area. They detained two women. Later on the 15th at BS688589 they had two men wounded while they were blowing a booby trap. The only action on 16 April occurred when D company on their sweep at BS561711 killed one VC. 17-19 April the Battalion kept busy locating and destroying booby traps and securing the engineers in the Horseshoe.

The Battalion changed commanders on 19 April when LTC R A Culbertson assumed command from LTC Stottle who became the Division G-3. During March 70 MG Milloy assumed command of the Division from MG Ramsey who was injured when his helicopter crashed. Also BG Donaldson left the Division and on 27 March 70 Col Barlow took over the 11th Brigade from Col Hoffman. The day after the battalion changed commanders, the Recon platoon engaged eight VC at BS552702; A company killed one VC and captured one SKS rifle at BS554636; D company captured an individual weapon at BS554688 and C company engaged and killed one VC and captured one weapon at BS596610. On the 23rd of April they fired on ten NVA at BS557635, captured one individual weapon and found a base camp with an M16A1 rifle and while on patrol near BS557634 found 10 NVA killed by artillery fire. On 25 April, D company found some huts and wire at BS635544 and the next day they received sniper fire at BS614541

without any damage.

The 28th of April was busy as B company engaged a group of VC at BS579608 killing one, capturing one VC and an individual weapon. A short time later at BS579308 they had a claymore detonate killing one MAM, one VC and capturing one AK-47 rifle, two B-41, small arms ammunition and some documents. On the 30th, D company killed one VC trying to cross the river and the "Hill" received six RPG rounds without any damage. Until 5 May it was quiet but then B company tripped a booby trapped 105 round wounding one soldier at BS640592. The light to moderate contact which existed during the last part of April 70 continued until 7 May 70 when FSB 411 came under ground attack. D company during the battle killed 10 VC, a part of the 406th Sapper Bn was identified as the unit attacking the "Hill." 2 VC were captured and 4 individual and 2 crew served weapons were captured. No U.S. casualties resulted from the attack. The following day, the NVA POW confirmed he was part of the 401st Battalion that attacked the base. Checking the area three more VC were found killed, a 9mm pistol, two AK-47 rifles and one AK-50 were recovered. On the 9th, C company killed one VC and captured three individual weapons at BS576624. After a three day rest on 10 May 70 the "Hill" was again under ground attack from the enemy, receiving ten 82mm mortar rounds and this time 2 U.S. men from D company and from D Btry were wounded and evacuated while 4 other men received minor wounds.

The next day, 11 May 70, A company killed one VC at BS511730; D company killed one NVA and captured one individual weapon at BS611627 and C company at BS579632 captured two civilian deserters. On the 12th, D company at BS602626 killed one VC and captured one weapon. Soon after the company received small arms fire at BS601626 wounding five U.S. soldiers who were evacuated, PFC Theodore G. Drew was killed and four others wounded from enemy mortar fire at BS617642. The 13th of May 1970 was a day of infamy for A company. While searching for an NVA company, they became engaged in a heavy fire fight at BS599629 receiving small arms fire and mortar fire while moving through freshly cut rice paddies several men were hit in the initial fire from the enemy who were in well dug in positions and A company was soon pinned down. As

one platoon maneuvered at BS598619 they killed one NVA and captured one individual weapon. During the fire fight SSGT Kidd, SSG William Olson and SP4 Van Thomas Wray were killed. Meanwhile Pfc. Winder, the company medic began treating eight men who were wounded and trying to save three soldiers that were dying . He was wounded before reaching the first man and after treating him he was wounded again as he moved to another wounded soldier. After treating the second man he got to within ten meters of another wounded man and this time he was mortally wounded. His actions that day earned him the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously and the devotion of the men of the company. A copy of the citation is at Appendix A. Those three men whom he tried to save, SP4 Edward J. Delikat Jr, SP4 Richard D. Humphrey and SP4 Allen A. Munson succumbed from their wounds.

The following day D company killed one VC at BS596630 and four NVA and capturing one individual weapon at BS596620. They were believed to be a part of the unit A company had engaged the previous day. On 16 May, A company received small arms fire without any casualties at BS553684 and B company tripped a booby trap at 1835 hours at BS509744 wounding one U.S. soldier. D companies VIP program paid 1,900 piasters for five 105 rounds, six mortar rounds, two 82mm mortar rounds, one 82mm fuse, one M72 LAW, two 57 recoilless rounds, one 81mm mortar round and two M-79 rounds. At 1030 on the 18th of May, B company found two booby traps in a hole and blew them at BS492745. The following day they found two tons of rice which was booby trapped at BS460772 which they burned and blew in place. At 1900 hours A company found a well used trail at BS551652 and that night at BS555636, one of their trip flares went off and they blew a claymore without any results. D company moving into its night defensive position at BS569628 found one VC killed previously by gunships. On 20 May, A company found one VC KIA The 21st of May saw B company capture three VC, a pith helmet a canteen and a bayonet at BS453760 and at 1125 hours they found tunnels with two tons of rice in what looked like a resupply area at BS465754. That afternoon Recon platoon observed two VC and fired 4.2mm mortar fire on them. The next night D company had a claymore activated at BS577627 resulting in one dead chicken.

On the 23rd plans were made for a major Battalion move to LZ Les which would take 43 hook sorties, 33 truck loads and the Battalion was placed on a six hour alert status. Meanwhile D company at BS582631 observed movement and voices which were engaged with artillery fire from D Battery 6/11 Artillery. C company at 1725 hours while searching out a base camp at BS556650 found fresh fires, salad oil and food cooking. They then engaged two NVA killing one, capturing two AK-47 rifles, one RPG-7 launcher and a RPG-2 launcher, knives, ammunition, medical supplies, rice, steel helmets. pith helmets, one NVA flag, three officers belts, documents, canteens and other ammunition. The ammunition was destroyed and the rest sent back to the "Hill." After the first few days of heavy enemy attacks, the enemy withdrew to reorganize and resupply while the Battalion continued its sweeps to locate the enemy. The 24th of May found C company at BS556649 where they found one NVA killed. That night at BS553641 C company received four mortar rounds which wounded one soldier, counter mortar fire was fired by their 81mm mortars. That afternoon, they found rice, ponchos, entrenching tools, pith helmets and a grave at BS556649. D company at BS568625 received five mortar rounds without casualties and B company at BS467775 engaged two VC with artillery and found two VN which were turned over to Tu My village. During a crossing of the river, PFC Dwight McKinney Jr. was drowned when the rope broke. He was recovered two days later. Early the next morning at BS553641 C company had a trip flare go off, they fired M-79 rounds into the area with negative results. Later that morning D company blew up a fighting bunker at BS565633. On 26 May, the Recon platoon found and blew a 82mm mortar round booby trap at BS512698 and that night they found and destroyed a 105 round booby trap at BS508708. Later at about 1900 hours, C company received six 60mm mortar rounds at BS565645 and they engaged the enemy with their 81mm mortars. There were negative casualties.

On the 27th of May B company had a mechanical ambush go off with negative results at BS451759. Later at BS460759 they observed two VC/NVA approaching them from the south west. They engaged the enemy with small arms fire and M-79 fire, the enemy evaded and the company

found nothing later upon its search of the area. A company at 0720 hours that morning found a RF that had been wounded at BS560717 but was not evacuated . On 28 May, B company at BS458752 captured a montagnard after receiving small arms fire. At 1104 hours at BS447758, SP4 Arturo Lopez Jr. was killed and two wounded including Charles G. Mankin when they tripped a booby trapped 105 round at BS447758. Later another man was wounded when he dug a cat hole and tripped a booby trap in a small can. The wire was buried in the ground. At 1610 hours C company found three NVA graves at BS559629, A company meanwhile found blood trails, a watch and bush hat at BS525717. Later at BS437778 they observed one VC running but took no action as it was too close to a village. The Recon platoon had the same problem when they saw four VC evading at BS517711. A company on 29 May detained one VC at BS452768 without a fight. C company however came in contact with four VC carrying a mortar tube at BS555636. They engaged the enemy killing one VC and wounding one and capturing the 60mm mortar tube.

The Battalion had been using mine and tracker dogs while on patrol with little success in obtaining them or keeping them in the field for more than two days at a time. The river was becoming a regular highway and the Battalion kept companies watching it most of the time. C company found and watched trails along the river that showed signs of Ho Chi Minh sandal tracks on them on the 30th of May. Later that day a VN child pointed out a booby trapped 60mm mortar round which was destroyed. They later killed a VC as he escaped across the river. On the last day of the month, A company at BS459781 received intensive small arms fire with negative casualties. Later at 1745 hours at BS453785, the engineers tripped a 105 round wounding one engineer. Later A company, again received small arms fire and one RPG round. At BS454785, they engaged the enemy and saw one VC evading. D company at BS548767 received inside their perimeter, two dud illuminating rounds. Counter fire from the artillery was called in without any results. At 2000 hours they received AK-47 fire at BS548787 which they engaged with M-79 rounds with unknown results. The next morning they found an enemy mortar pit and rounded up a group of civilians who were sent back to Tu My.

On 2 June 70, B company on FSB 411 received 10-12 rounds of 82mm mortar rounds. Also that day D company found at BS234774 6,000 pounds of rice which was evacuated along with 2,000 pounds of potatoes. The afternoon of 4 June 70 at 1315 hours at BS526786, D company captured one VC and wounded one other VC who were evacuated to the "Hill." An hour later they wounded another VC and captured another. At 1410 hours they detained seven VC. Early the next morning at 0500 hours the "Hill" received two 60mm mortar rounds with negative casualties and at the same time Tu My village was also being attacked by mortar and small arms fire. Suppressive fires were fired with unknown results. Until 6 June 70 the action was nil, then D company at BS544774 found 2 ½ tons of polished rice in two tunnels under the floors of some huts. It was evacuated to Son Thein, later they detained an NVA without any identification. The 7th of June was busy for both A and D companies when D company received sniper fire at BS498783 with no casualties and then at BS499753 found three blood trails and used a tracker dog to follow them without success. Later at BS499754 they found twelve bunkers destroyed by previous air strikes and at BS495765 they located six more bunkers that had been destroyed by air strikes. A patrol from the company had two soldiers wounded by sniper fire and were evacuated. A company was busy when at BS496752 they observed twelve VC/NVA in black pajamas and green fatigues with weapons moving east to west. They engaged them with automatic weapons and small arms fire at a distance of three hundred meters. The enemy tried to evade with five VC/NVA killed but not confirmed as the company saw some being carried off. Later at BS488798 they observed one VC with a weapon and engaged him with small arms fire at 400 meters killing him. They could see the weapon on the ground but couldn't get across the river to recover it.

The 8th of June at 0125 hours D company at BS514775 received two mortar rounds with negative injuries and at 0730 hours at BS749541 ambushed four VC killing only one. At 0950 hours at BS499764 they received 30 rounds of small arms fire without any casualties and the returned fire resulted in no enemy damage. Finally that day B company at BS509744 found and destroyed an 82mm mortar round booby trap. The 9th of June saw all of the action taking place in the morning hours when at



0735 hours D company at BS507754 engaged some VC killing one and capturing one who had a military radio on him. They also engaged five to six VC without any results at BS489767 and then an 82mm mortar round booby trap wounded a nine year old civilian boy. B company just before lunch break at BS481753 found and destroyed a small booby trap. On 10 June 70 Recon Platoon found a weapons cache and captured 7 individual weapons at BS515705. The weapons were two BAR's, three U.S.M1 rifles, one SKS rifle and one submachine gun. D company at 1330 hours at BS525765 engaged two VC with small arms and captured both of them. Soon after at BS491767 they found medical supplies and in the same area engaged three VC killing one and capturing one other. B companies sniper team at BS483763 engaged 8-9 VC killing one and later at 1445 hours the company observed three VC and engaged them with 81mm mortar fire with negative results.

An element of A company moving in an APC received small arms fire at BS559734 without any damage. On 11 June D company observed one VC/NVA and engaged him with small arms fire without any results at BS493773. C company at BS480779 found a tunnel with a pith helmet, medicines, a diary, a NVA pistol belt with holster and a 9mm pistol. Also five magazines of ammunition were found. Everything was sent to the "Hill" except the pistol which was kept by the individual who found it. 12 June, C company found 300 pounds of rice in 55 gallon drums in a camouflaged hole with pots and pans at BS485778 which was sent back to the "Hill." B company while patrolling at BS483753 received 10-12 rounds of sniper fire from 300-400 meters south east of their location which wounded one soldier in the foot and he was evacuated back to FSB 411. At 0520 hours on the 13th, B company had a mechanical ambush detonated with negative results and at 0650 hours, A companies mechanical ambush was set off at BS551656 with negative results. That morning at 1010 hours C company at BS497783 received 10 rounds of sniper fire without any casualties to the company but at 1540 hours at BS474787 they had three men wounded by a booby trap. That evening B company at BS546726 found a mock up of FSB 411 and in particular showing the 4.2 mortar positions and the artillery battery positions.

On 14 June Col Barlow, the 11th Brigade Commander landed at C companies location at BS484787 and received 20 rounds of sniper fire. The company engaged the area where the fire came from with gunships with unknown results. At about the same time B company at BS483746 engaged 8-10 VC which didn't have any weapons with them but the company had no success in killing or capturing them. The "Hill" was rudely awakened at 0155 hours on 15 June when it received 8-10 82mm mortar rounds. D Battery fired counter mortar fire but with unknown results. At 1055 hours B company at BS472748 found a 500 pound bomb which they blew in place, and later at BS563730 received an M-79 round with negative casualties or results with their returning fires. That night at 1800 hours they had a mechanical ambush detonated which wounded six VN people. Just prior to that at 1705 hours A company captured an NVA soldier with a pack and helmet at BS598646. At 2250 hours D company received AK-47 fire and engaged the suspected area with artillery with negative results. B company reported they had a VC killed at BS476747. On 16 June, C company found two M-60 ammunition cans with clean socks and tobacco which were destroyed at BS492760 and then at BS499781 found potatoes and peanuts which were destroyed. B companies Sniper team killed three VC and captured one individual weapon. The sniper teams after their training at long last were starting to pay off.

The 17th, C company at BS478770 observed three VN with packs 50 meters east of their location, they also saw five VC with M-79's, they were told to stop and they ran and were engaged with small arms fire resulting in one VC killed while the others evaded. The killed VC had 7,500 piasters in his pack, cloths and documents which were sent back to the "Hill." On 18 June at 1125, D company at BS489755 captured a 20 year old male without any I.D. and at 1345 hours at BS500761 detained one MAM. On the 19th of June at 0655 hours, C company at BS481775 tripped a booby trap with no casualties.

The Battalion became OPCON to the 196th Brigade to assist in Operation Frederick "Hill" where the heaviest enemy contact had been made in recent weeks. The Battalion was to conduct search and ambush operations while the Recon platoon was left to secure the "Hill." The Battalion moved to Tam

Ky. The following morning on its sweep the Recon platoon found and blew a booby trapped 105 round at BS568728. The Battalion left Tam Ky at 1125 hours on the 19th of June and landed at Tien Phuoc at 1415 hours in preparation for air assaults that afternoon and the following day. C company and twenty five engineers made an air assault to secure Hill 48T at AT875175 to establish a fire support base for the artillery and the Battalion command post. The Battalion prepared for air assaults to take place on the 20th of June which put the Battalion minus in to an LZ in the vicinity of AT853135. All the LZ's were cold and the companies began search and ambush operations in their assigned AO.

The action was non productive until on the 23rd when A company found a NVA that had been killed by D troop 1/1 Cav at AT865115. On the 24th, B company had one man wounded by punji stakes near AT839128 and B company while searching the area around AT838127 found a hut with a AK-44 rifle in it and they destroyed the hut. The 25th resulted in the company searches starting to pay off as B company in their search at AT836130, 1120 hours found one SKS rifle, one AK-44, one AK-50, two French machineguns but they also had one man wounded by a booby trap who was evacuated. Meanwhile, A company near AT993093 received small arms fire but no one was injured and when they returned the fire there were negative results. The following day, D company while in their night defensive positions received small arms fire without any injuries. The 27th while D company was near AT928108 they captured a ANPRC 25 Battery, two pistol belts and one M-60 machinegun that they found in a hut. The following day D company on a search at 0950 hours engaged two NVA, killing one and capturing a 9mm pistol. C company meanwhile found an ammunition processing plant to include two French presses and all the necessary empty cartridges, powder and bullets necessary to produce small arms ammunition. The plant was located in several well constructed buildings at AT902284. After evacuating what could be saved the plant was destroyed.

The battalion AO was quiet until 1 July 1970 when B company near AT853089 captured five individual weapons consisting of two AK-47's, two AK-44 one SKS, documents and clothing . They killed one NVA as he tried to evade the company search. On 2 July the Battalion was released from

OPCON to the 196th Brigade and airlifted to Tam Ky and then trucked to Quang Nai so they could resume operations in and around the "Hill." A company stayed at Duc Pho for recharger!

On the 4th of July, B company at BS565672 detained one MAM and killed one VC. Later at 2000 hours at BS563660 they spotted 25 VC in the open and engaged them in a fire fight, they used 81mm mortars and called in gunships to assist. They estimated that there were 100 VC in the attacking force against them. The company began to chase them and attempted to ambush them. The NVA evaded and after the company swept the area they found nothing. At 1915 hours Recon platoon at BS551713 observed 14 VC which they engaged with 4.2mm mortar fire with unknown results. The following day at 1120 hours, A company at BS503774 found a booby trapped 105 round set up on bamboo poles which they destroyed. B company had a mechanical ambush go off at 2105 hours at BS564652. The results were one wildcat KIA. On 6 July Recon platoon at BS550700 found five bunkers 4'X6' and miscellaneous clothing that had been used in the last 24 hours since it had blood stains on it, everything was blown up and destroyed. At 0900 hours at BS508774 A company received a heavy volume of small arms fire and requested gunships to support them, by the time the gunships arrived thirty minutes later they had one soldier wounded and he was evacuated by the Battalion command ship. At 1243 hours at BS501772 the company detained one VN male with gunshot wounds to the stomach, he was evacuated to Chu Lai. Soon after the company had SP4 Albert F. Tristan killed by small arms fire. 7 July was quiet except that a patrol from A company detained two VN. On 8 July 70, A company near BS5077, BS4977, BS5075, BS4975 and BS4875 found and evacuated 8,800 pounds of rice. Then at 1315 hours the company at BS496777 detained one male VC and at 1835 hours at BS485773 they killed another VC without any casualties to the company. C company right after lunch at BS503788 received small arms fire but no one was injured. That evening at 1815 hours, Recon platoon at BS497734 engaged one VC and then engaged eight more. When they searched the area of the conflict, they found several packs but no weapons or casualties. Early on the 9th of July D company at BS479752 received 30-40 rounds of sniper fire without any one being injured. They returned the fire and at 0935 hours when they

checked the area at BS493743 they found one VC KIA. A company meanwhile found two 55 gallon drums of rice and a barbers kit and killed three VC at BS492752. The rice was evacuated and the company kept the barbers kit. Later at 1130 hours they found more rice and a sampan at BS489757 which were destroyed.

On 10 July, D company detained one MAM at 0615 hours in the morning and then at 1040 hours they killed three VC of military age at BS479752. A company was busy when at 0615 hours they detained one MAM at BS473748 and then at 1115 hours they found 55 gallons of rice at BS495755. After lunch they detained three more MAM at BS504672 and then at 2000 hours they observed four VC at BS513769 and engaged them with fire and maneuver attempting to capture them without any success. No enemy contact was made until 16 July when C company found a heavily mined and booby trapped area which they burned and blew up the mines they could see. D company was not so lucky as at 1800 hours they hit a booby trap at BS499777 wounding three soldiers who were evacuated. The next morning at 0615 hours they tripped another booby trap wounding one man who was evacuated and one other man received minor wounds. B company at 1920 hours that day found rice and engaged six VC with unknown results at BS526785. Early in the morning at 0110 hours B company detained one MAM at BS542783 and at 0815 hours they detained a 23 year old ARVN soldier who claimed to have been captured by the VC and had escaped. They were sent to the 4th ARVN Regiment for further interrogation. At 0900 hours an element of B company riding in an APC hit a large booby trap in the road, killing PFC Louis L. Zittergruen of B company and wounding nine others while completely destroying the APC. It wasn't until the next day until the Engineers got the road repaired and the APC removed. Tempers between various commanders flared over the incident. C companies only action that day was when they detained three VN at BS582688. D company started the day by observing and engaging two NVA at BS473776 without any positive results. They then observed two more NVA and engaged them without any success at BS473776. At 1340 hours the company received small arms fire at BS465777 without anyone hurt and then at 1430 hours they again received 30 rounds of small arms fire without any injuries at BS463784.

The only activity on the 18th of July was when C company at 30 minutes after midnight had a mechanical ambush detonate resulting in one rabbit KIA. 19 July saw booby traps again causing the major damage to the Battalion, when at 1204 hours B company at BS499785 while moving along a trail hit a hand grenade booby trap with the trip wire across the trail resulting in four men being wounded and evacuated to Chu Lai. It seems that the troops had failed to keep proper separation or one grenade should not have taken such a toll. Later that afternoon at BS473778 two soldiers who were trying to destroy a dud 275 rocket tripped a booby trapped hand grenade wounding them both. They were evacuated to Chu Lai by 1700 hours. At 0855 hours on the 20th, B company at BS500783 received sniper fire from the N N W from about 300 meters away. They engaged the area with small arms fire and 81mm mortar fire with unknown results. That evening, C company had a mechanical ambush detonate killing one 20 year old VC who had a poncho, two magazines of ammunition and a M-1 Carbine which were sent back to the "Hill."

On the 21st of July B company became engaged in a heavy fire fight at BS500787, as they attacked the enemy they had four men wounded and evacuated. When they over ran the position they found a large bunker and trench complex but no enemy remains. That evening at BS623493 they found two more bunkers containing one AK-47 rifle with ammunition and shot gun shells which were destroyed. Finally at 2200 hours at BS518776 one of their mechanical ambushes was set off with negative results. That same day Recon platoon engaged five VC at BS486754 with artillery fire killing two.

C company that night at 2130 hours had a mechanical ambush kill one VC and they captured one individual weapon. Meanwhile on the "Hill" they saw two VC trying to get through the perimeter and they received small arms fire which was returned. A check of the area later found no damage to the wire or to the enemy. On 22 July in the morning hours B company at BS499786 detained one MAM and killed one VC. That afternoon the Recon platoon at BS496738 observed five VC across the river and called in artillery on them without knowing if they did any damage to them. The 23rd of July was busy when at 0800 hours B companies sniper team at

BS538765 wounded one VC tax collector. At 0900 hours one of the companies KCS was killed when he lifted up an enemy M60 base plate which was booby trapped at BS502789. That evening at 2015 hours the company received 10 M-79 rounds. They returned the fire killing one VC. A company was also busy that day when at BS543774 they found a 51 caliber gun position with 49 rounds which they destroyed. At 2026 hours their sniper team engaged two VC and captured one M-26. The Recon platoon kept the artillery battery busy when at 1940 hours at BS445733 they spotted ten VC crossing the river. The fire injured some but how many could not be determined. On 24 July, A Companies sniper team at 1935 hours killed one VC and the Recon platoon detained nine VN.

On 25 July 70, B company engaged and killed three VC and captured 3 individual weapons at BS510751 and then at BS545766 the second platoon spotted three VC at 200 meters from them in green uniforms with weapons. When fired upon they evaded to the south east and any casualties were not found. A check of the area found one VN accidentally shot and he was med evacuated to Chu Lai. 26 July was a quiet day for the Battalion except for B company. At 1250 hours they detained a 30 year old male at BS481772 and at 1445 hours they received small arms fire at BS505750. They engaged the enemy with small arms fire resulting in one VC killed and one VC female being detained who had documents. They were sent back to the "Hill." Making an air assault at 1630 hours to BS560751 they came in under fire on a hot LZ. The ensuing fire fight resulted in three VC males being killed and they captured one M16A1 rifle, one AK-47 rifle, one SKS rifle, two pistol belts and ammunition. At about 1815 hours the Recon platoon observed 35 VC at BS445735 which they engaged with artillery and 4.2mm mortar fire with unknown results. At the same time C company at BS459708 engaged 25 VC with small arms fire, artillery and gunships with unknown results.

The next two days were quiet and without any enemy activity, however at 0110 hours on the 28th of July, B company received three lob bombs without injuring anyone. They engaged the suspected enemy area with artillery fire with unknown results. That afternoon at 1655 hours A company found sleeping trenches at BS468694. 2000 hours found C

company at BS535766 observing 30 VC in the open and engaging them with artillery fire and they also found an enemy fighting position which they booby trapped hoping the enemy would try to use it that night. Finally that night at 1935 hours at BS534766 they engaged eight VC with small arms fire. On the 30th of July C company at 1455 hours received small arms fire from 150-200 meters from their position at BS532796. They engaged the area and upon checking it out they detained a 55 year old male suspected of being the sniper and evacuated him back to Brigade Headquarters at Bronco. D companies patrol at 1320 hours had two soldiers wounded by a booby trap. On 31 July 70, A company near BS447743 had five men wounded by a command detonated 155 mm round booby trap.

During August 1970 the enemy in the Battalion AO was planning a fall-winter operation, with the goal of penetrating U.S. and Saigon government organizations with the objective of taking over local governments and disrupting the U.S. pacification program. Sapper units were strengthened and trained and ammunition was resupplied. Combat operations by the enemy kicked off around 19 August 70 and was to culminate in September 70 on the anniversary of Ho Chi Minhs death. Mortar attacks on various local villages were conducted but the major enemy operation began on 24 August. However on 1 August 70 B company at 1000 hours at BS487773 engaged two NVA with packs 150 meters south of their position, killing one and capturing one rucksack while the other NVA evaded to the south. Another patrol from the company found an individual weapon. On 2 August 70, B company at BS632665 sent an enlisted man to the rear as he appeared to be under the influence of drugs. The L.O.H. he was sent out on was flying level at 1,000 - 1,500 feet altitude when the man jumped out of the aircraft from the back seat killing himself. The body was later recovered. B company at BS482794 detained two people, one 60 year old male and a 30-40 year old female that didn't have any I.D. They were looking for food and were sent back to the "Hill."

On 3 August 70, D company engaged a sampan killing 6 VC at BS445759, the following day, 4 August 70, B company detonated a booby trap killing 1 soldier and wounding 7 others at BS470785. Later that evening at BS505757, they received M-79 and small arms fire wounding two of B



companies men. As a sampan went by they received more small arms fire without any injuries. At 0627 hours in the morning of 4 August 70, D company had one man wounded by a booby trap at BS454754. Shortly after that their sniper team killed six VC in a boat. C companies only action for the day came at 0905 hours when they detained five VN females at BS484772. On 5 August, B company at 2015 hours had two men wounded by a booby trap and small arms fire at BS505757. Earlier on the 5th of August, A company found and destroyed a booby trap at 0840 hours near BS492758 and just after lunch at BS492757 they found a 105 round and one 155 howitzer rounds prepared to be booby trapped. They were destroyed in place. Later at 1920 hours the company killed three VC at BS495760. At noon that day, Recon platoon found a booby trapped 81mm mortar round that they destroyed at BS512771. That day the Battalion operation Carnival rounded up more than 1,000 VN, of that amount many were treated by the Medics and a large number of them were identified as VC by the ARVN interrogators.

On 6 August, A company started receiving small arms fire at 0805 hours from three VC with AK-47's, M16A1 rifles and M-79's. They engaged the enemy with artillery fire with negative results. Later at 0940 hours they found one booby trap when the scout dog located it. The dog didn't set off but it was close until the men picked the dog up and destroyed the booby trap at BS495765. That afternoon A company had one man wounded by shrapnel from artillery H&I fire when it got too close to their position. The previous night at 2000 hours B company had a trip flare go off at BS503749 and when it landed on a hut and started it to burn it set off small arms ammunition that must have been hidden in the hut. The resulting fire and exploding ammunition resulted in three VC being killed and one MAM being captured. Between 1120 hours to 1220 hours that day B company at BS507751 to BS509751 destroyed one booby trapped 81mm mortar round and captured two VC females. On 7 August 70, A company received heavy small arms fire at 0920 hours without any casualties at BS490773. That evening, their sniper team at BS494776 killed one VC. At about the same time the company detained two females at BS485773. C company had all of its action at 1540 hours when they detained two VN and received small arms fire without any damage at BS513777. A company on 8 August

detained three VN at BS485773 and BS496777. At 0535 hours in the morning of the 9th of August, A company at BS497774 had a mechanical ambush detonated resulting in one chicken KIA. Late that afternoon at BS483783 the company blew a booby trap and when the dust settled it had uncovered a tunnel that led to large underground rooms. There was nothing in them of military value however. An element of B company on an eagle flight at 1035 hours at BS483766 engaged two VC killing one and detaining two females, two babies and four males. Later they detained twenty two VN. The Recon platoon at 1730 hours at BS499739 killed one VC by small arms fire.

On the night of the 9th at 2335 hours, A company at BS477778 had a mechanical ambush detonated with unknown results, and at 2250 hours on the same night B company at BS513774 had two soldiers wounded by Lob Bombs. The Recon platoon found six 57 recoilless rounds at BS505736 and destroyed them in place. B company kept busy when at 1500 hours at BS510790 they killed two VC who were throwing fragment grenades at them, then at BS500791 they detained one MAM and at BS504794 they found one 55 gallon drum of rice that was booby trapped. They blew it all in place instead of evacuating the rice back to Tu My. The 4.2mm mortar platoon on the "Hill" received small arms fire without any damage. D company at BS546715 detained one VN at 1430 hours. At 1735 hours A company as it was moving at BS492791 had a man fall through a secret door where they found and destroyed a ton of rice. All was quiet in the AO until the afternoon of 12 August when a CH-47 helicopter resupplying B company at BS510780 received small arms fire from BS505784 while it was on the ground. The pilot took off in a hurry and didn't bother to see if everyone was clear of the ship and didn't close the ramp causing one man to fall off and he was injured bad enough to be evacuated while another man on the ground was hit by a case of rations but didn't need to be evacuated. The pilots were reprimanded for improper procedures in an investigation held later.

On 14 August 1970, C company at BS512778 had a VN child while cooking his rice throw a mechanical charge into the fire and received serious burns to his body. He was evacuated to Quang Ngai for medical attention. Later

that day C company killed one VC while on patrol. D company meanwhile at BS624566 observed a VC in a tree, they engaged him with small arms fire killing him. He was wearing a green shirt and purple pants, an odd combination to say the least. The only action on the 15th was when A company at 0830 hours observed three VC evading at BS487766 . Two of them ran and one went in to a spider hole. He refused to come out so the company set of a claymore in the hole killing him. He was a 25 year old male wearing black pajamas. They then observed three more VC evading but could not hit them with small arms fire. The following day C company while at BS502788 received M-79 and small arms fire wounding one soldier. That afternoon at BS508788 they killed one VC and captured one individual weapon. The only activity on 17 August was when D companies sniper team engaged three VC killing one at BS465774. Action remained light from then to the end of the month but each day brought signs of increasing enemy activity. The 18th of August 70 D company engaged three VC at 0740 hours killing two and capturing one AK-47 and one AK-50 at BS454750. That evening at 1900 hours, Recon platoon engaged six VC near the river at BS497737.

On the 19th of August, B company saw all the action when at noon they detained five MAM at BS500759 and at 1335 hours they killed one VC and captured one rifle at BS581750. That night at BS506757 they received a Lob Bomb without any damage. Again on 20 August, B company had most of the action when at 1445 hours they detained one female at BS503752 and detained one male at BS500767. That evening, they received 90 rounds of small arms fire from an unknown sized force which they returned without any results at BS509752. Later that night an element from D company killed one VC at BS486755. 21 August saw the Battalion Commander detain two VN and a patrol from A company detained one MAM. The AO again was quiet until 23 August when a platoon patrol from A company engaged two VC at 1135 hours killing one and capturing the other. On 25 August D company in the afternoon detained one 30 year old female without any I.D. at BS520762 and evacuated her back to the "Hill." A company detained a 55 year old male with a KCS I.D. but believing him to be a VC he was sent to the 11th Brigade S-2 at Bronco. C company at 1410 hours at BS693620 reported that the Tu Nghi district chief said that

general support artillery fired into a VN unit killing one civilian and wounding one other and he wanted it stopped. Later, A company detained one VN and turned him over to District Forces and then at 1615 hours an A company patrol had four men wounded by a booby trap. The 26th of August 70, B company at 1540 hours engaged one VC killing him and capturing one AK-47 at BS494762.

At 0830 hours on the 27th of August, A company began taking AK-47 and M-79 fire wounding one man at BS515987 and then at BS518792 a booby trap wounded three more men PFC James C. Cain later died from his wounds. B company found an AK-47 and one M16A1 rifle at BS491772 and then found two more CHICOM rifles in the same cache. D company in the morning detained six VN at BS513758 and that evening they detained two females at BS515758. 28 August while B company was in it's night defensive position at BS494763 they received two Lob Bombs without any damage. That afternoon at BS529773 D company saw three VN and one 12 year old that had been killed by the VC. The next day, D company captured an NVA at BS525781. On 30 August C company, working with E troop 1/1 Cav at BS562642, received 4-6 RPG rounds wounding three men from E troop. They then received two 60mm mortar rounds without any damage. Then at BS556643 they received small arms fire and engaged the enemy with artillery fire. That afternoon C company killed one VC and captured one individual weapon at BS557652 and then had one soldier wounded by small arms fire at BS562642. D companies only action that day was when they detained one MAM at BS514776. On 31 August 70 the "Hill" received a mortar attack and RPG rounds without any U.S. injuries. Then at 1330 hours, C company working with E troop 1/1 Cav at BS552638 received one RPG round hitting a tank and killing one man and wounding three men from E troop.

As the action picked up on 2 September 70 it saw D company that morning at BS446732 engaging two NVA killing one and wounding the other. One pack was captured but after searching the area they didn't find any weapons. Later that morning a D company eagle flight at BS445743 engaged two VC killing one and capturing the other one along with one AK-47 rifle which were evacuated to Bronco. Just before lunch in the same

area they engaged one more VC killing him and capturing his AK-47 rifle. They also detained two MAM. Later that day at 1816 hours a D company patrol tripped a booby trap wounding three U.S. soldiers who were evacuated, later PFC Robert J. Weidle died from his wounds . On 3 September 70 D company and E Troop 1/1 Cav received 50 RPG rounds resulting in 2 soldiers killed from E troop and 9 wounded from D company at BS559639. The next morning C company received 3 82mm mortar rounds resulting in 5 soldiers wounded at their position near BS561643. After receiving heavy automatic fire from BS561634 into the platoon position, they called in an air strike and engaged the area with artillery fire. D company who made a sweep towards the enemy at BS561634 captured one AK-47 rifle, numerous carrying cases for RPG rounds and one dead NVA. That afternoon C company at BS561634 received heavy small arms and RPG fire, one element of B company was completely pinned down and D company moved back into the area of contact to attack the enemy. The fire fight resulted in nine soldiers from C company being wounded and evacuated to Chu Lai. Later C company at BS561640 captured two AK-47 rifles, one pistol and the gunships supporting the company killed one NVA. The company could see his AK-47 and retrieved it later. Finally at 1400 hours at BS561638 C company engaged one NVA at 50 meters killing him. He was in a green uniform.

The next day on the 4th of September C company at BS561635 found three RPG rounds, one AK-47 rifle, one pack, two CHICOM fragment grenades and one NVA killed by gunships in a hole. D company continuing its search at BS559638 found one NVA killed by the gunships. They also found one NVA belt and helmet along with nine RPG rounds. They also found an AK-47 rifle and two full magazines and a grave with a body killed by 50 caliber fire. B company meanwhile at BS541642 had one soldier engage an NVA who evaded into a spider hole. The soldier tossed a hand grenade into the hole and the NVA tossed it back out resulting in one U.S. soldier being wounded by his own grenade. On 5 September, B company at BS553693 found a grave with an NVA body and one RPG round. Later 1st Lt Emil Naasz died from wounds caused by a booby trap on 2 September. On the 6th of September, A company searching a base camp at BS556645 found two NVA bodies and then started to receive heavy

small arms fire wounding one soldier. That afternoon the company at BS557651 had a soldier wounded by fragments from an air strike. Then at BS556652 they found a hut underneath a water falls and captured one RPG. They later found one NVA killed by the air strike at BS564645. D company had little action except for detaining one individual at BS559621.

On 7 September, C company tripped a booby trap wounding one man at BS564638. A company continuing its search found an entrenching tool a claymore and two M16A1 rifles at BS556652. B company while at BS550638 found a rocket from a gunship which they blew and later at BS552628 received six 82mm mortar rounds which wounded three soldiers. The battalion AO was quiet until 1210 hours on 10 September 70 when A company at BS571761 received 10 rounds of automatic fire without receiving any injuries.

On 11 September 70, B company found 10 NVA that had been killed by gunships in support of C company at BS561636. The Battalion AO was quiet the rest of the day on the 11th of September while the Battalion changed hands from LTC Culbertson to LTC Landry and the 11th Brigade saw Col Insani take command of the Brigade from Col Barlow. Later after the change of command, B company at BS556639 received small arms fire and six RPG rounds resulting in one U.S. soldier being wounded and evacuated That night A company at BS517776 was setting out a mechanical ambush when it detonated wounding two soldiers. On the 12th of September 70, Recon platoon engaged four MAM with small arms and artillery fire with negative results at BS517707. B company searching the area at BS561638 found two NVA that had been killed by gunships and then at BS563638 received small arms fire without any injuries. An hour later in the same area they again received small arms fire without any one being hurt. They engaged the area with small arms fire, gunships, and artillery. Resulting from that action they found one AK-47 rifle and a wounded NVA who was part of the 127th company, 10th Battalion, 12th Regiment of the 5th NVA Division. This was a new NVA unit that had moved into the area. A company that morning at BS502761 captured two VC females and that evening at BS498758 received 20 rounds of automatic fire and found and destroyed a 250 pound bomb. The 14th of September,

D company detained one female at BS505774 and A company sank a sampan at BS488757.

On 15 September 70, B company at BS542648 received heavy small arms fire, mortar and RPG fire resulting in 1 NVA KIA, 2 individual weapons captured consisting of an AK-47 and a SKS, and had Sgt Donald L. Kahre killed with 2 other men wounded and evacuated and 2 others wounded but not sent to the rear. Later at BS540647 they found one VC which had been killed. That afternoon A company found one AK-47 rifle at BS512763, detained one MAM and found another dead VC at BS510751. An hour later the company killed a VC while he was swimming across the river at BS512752. Then D company that night at BS489777 received small arms fire wounding one soldier and when they went out to check the area where the fire came from they tripped a booby trap wounding two more men. Action was light on 16 and 17 September with A company and D company detaining one VN each. On the 16th of September Recon platoon wounded one VC and capturing him with his carbine. On 18 September, A company at BS458774 engaged three VC killing all of them and capturing their packs which were sent back to the "Hill." Earlier one of A companies patrols detained 11 VN who were evacuated back to Bronco. C company while at BS531646 had to evacuate two soldiers, one for heat exhaustion and one with an injured knee. At 1630 hours C company in its sweep of a bunker observed two VC whom they engaged with heavy small arms fire and received six hand grenade's thrown at them in return which wounded three U.S. soldiers. A company when it assembled that night killed two VC and detained one other without incident. Meanwhile Recon platoon observed and fired upon four VC/NVA with unknown results.

The 20th of September, D company while on patrol, moved to BS518787 and made contact with the enemy killing one NVA and capturing one NVA. The KCS with the platoon found out from the POW that he was one of five soldiers and that three had escaped. Later that day the rest of the company detained four VN in the area. A sniper team from the Battalion accounted for two VC being killed that evening. C company came into contact with an unidentified enemy force at BS529650 and received heavy small arms fire and one RPG round from the enemy element at BS528652

resulting in Pfc Russell Busick being killed and one man wounded in the fire fight. On 21 September, C company engaged four NVA taking a bath with artillery fire at BS515615 killing two. That afternoon while at BS530648 they received small arms fire and hand grenade's wounding three men of the company without any damage to the enemy. A company earlier in the morning detained one wounded VC male at BS450760. The following day B company at 0610 hours had two soldiers wounded by small arms fire at BS457744 and later that afternoon engaged two VC at BS440736 but didn't do any damage to the enemy.

Early in the morning of 23 September the Battalion sniper team at BS531701 engaged ten VC killing two. B company at 0545 hours ambushed a VC patrol at BS460743. Those that were either killed or wounded were carried off but they did manage to capture one SKS rifle. Soon after B company engaged a sampan at BS460774 possibly killing one NVA and that night at BS462745 they received 30-60 rounds of automatic fire without any damage to the company. Beginning at 1130 hours C company came into heavy contact at BS528644 wounding three U.S. soldiers. They used artillery and gunship fire plus their own small arms fire against the enemy. The fire fight continued until 1615 hours with four more men from the company being wounded. The estimated strength was around twelve VC and between the gunships and the companies sniper team they killed three VC by air and one by the sniper team. As the contact was broken by the enemy four more soldiers received wounds. On 24 September A company while at BS503657 at 1605 hours, observed two VC setting up a mortar. They called in artillery fire and got a direct hit on the enemy killing both VC and destroying the mortar. When they searched the area only scraps of the bodies could be found. The 25th to the 27th of September were relatively quiet except when A company at 1030 hours on the 26th of September had a mechanical ambush detonate killing one NVA and they captured one SKS rifle and two 60mm mortar rounds and then on the 27th, C company found five VN including one baby killed by a VC mine at BS567726.

Action continued light until a rocket from a supporting gunship fell short onto A company on 28 September 70 at BS519658 wounding 6 soldiers.



On the last day of the month C companies 2nd and 3rd platoons at BS527647 received small arms fire from a position 200 meters west of them. The ensuing fire fight resulted in SSGT Ronald Fields being killed and three others wounded and evacuated . At about the same time, A companies 2nd platoon received heavy small arms fire from the top of a hill with no initial damage to the platoon. The gunships engaged what was believed to be 4-5 VC and they began receiving fire. After the fire fight was concluded at about 1500 hours there were four U.S. wounded from the gunship crews, one soldier killed and one wounded from A company. Total enemy casualties were unknown. October saw the Companies being trained at Bronco especially in mine and booby trap detection and in pacification training. The "Hill" at 0245 hours on the 1st of October received one 81 mm mortar round without any damage, however the typhoons were raising havoc with the bunkers and flood damage was slowing offensive operations. The following day C company had a man evacuated from stomach pain from Bronco. The pain was suspected as being caused by the water which caused him to run and fall off a cliff damaging his shoulder.

At 1100 hours A company at BS519656 found three huts and spotted 3-4 VC/NVA evading. They fired on them with negative results but destroyed the huts. Two hours later the company evacuated a man who was bleeding internally. C company had to evacuate a man at 1622 hours because of a reaction to a bee sting. Later at 2100 hours D company at BS494684 spotted lights to their Northwest and called artillery fire on it.

Early on the morning of 3 October C company left Bronco landing at BS539634 and at 1130 hours D company at BS486699 found well used trails running Southeast. Earlier at 0902 hours at BS577725, Duster, on a mine sweep hit a command detonated mine wounding five soldiers, killing one other man and destroying the truck. On 4 October the enemy activity increased against GVN outposts and villages. That day D company at BS480715 captured one MAM without any papers or weapon. They also found a bunker and captured one female and one child who were wounded. There was rice and a canteen in the bunker. At 0937 hours B company on its air assault found a pressure type booby trap in a C-ration can on the LZ at BS472727 to BS470710. At 1135 hours as the company checked out

the area a booby trap that was 3-5 meters from a rock was set off. The fragments along with parts of the rock caused the Company Commander to receive fragment wounds and his RTO received serious enough wounds and was evacuated to Chu Lai. The company found four more C-ration can booby traps causing one other soldier to be slightly wounded. The VC were now using our trash against us since we seldom picked it up. At 0945 hours on 6 October at BS521741, B company found a base camp with 6-7 hooches and with bunkers under them they were destroyed. During the night of 5 October a Buddhist Monk who was burning incense as part of a ceremony burned down a bridge, the engineers had to replace the bridge the next day. At 0610 hours A company had a mechanical ambush detonate resulting in one Raccoon killed. At 0830 C company destroyed two booby traps made of C-4 and grenades. D company at 1100 hours at BS486715 found three bunkers and destroyed them. Later D company at BS482726 found a NVA shirt and various food and that night at 1920 hours at BS470737 received 10 rounds of small arms fire, which they engaged the area with small arms and artillery with no casualties on either side. B company at 1630 hours at BS457707 spotted two VC and engaged them with their 81 mm mortars with out any known results. At BS459727 they destroyed a booby trap and at 1827 hours at BS457727 received sixty rounds of small arms fire wounding one soldier who was evacuated . The Warlords engaged the area with unknown results. At 1505 hours D company evacuated three soldiers who were having trouble breathing. At 2250 hours Recon platoon at BS574710 had the Sharks attack one VC with a pack and weapon evading to the south. Results were one VC KIA, one AK-50 captured. There after in the same area Recon platoon engaged 4 VC evading, resulting in three VC killed, one detained and one AK-50, 4 Chicom hand grenade's, two .45 caliber pistols with magazines, two pistol belts with NVA ponchos, two silk parachutes, clothing and a large amount of documents and medical supplies to include a NVA newspaper and a pocket knife were captured .

The following day on 7 October B company detained one MAM and two 12 year old children without identification. At 1408 hours at BS543731 Recon platoon found a military compound 70 meters in diameter with 81mm mortar fuses and canisters in piles. A hole 3'x4'x3' was in the compound

containing food. There were several well used trails in the area and the two small children were evacuated to the "Hill." At 0745 hours on the 8th of October, Recon platoon at BS539708 found one VC killed but only part of the body was present, they followed the blood trail and found a grave and a grenade made from a coke bottle. The platoon was credited with one VC KIA from its mechanical ambush. At 2155 Recon platoon at BS539705 had a mechanical ambush detonate and found blood trails but couldn't find another body. The Battalion MEDGAP treated thirty five people at Tu My village during its daily trip. The 9th of October was quiet and the only activity was when D company at 1415 hours in the area of BS4772 to BS4872 destroyed five bunkers, 16 acres of corn, tobacco, sugar cane and potatoes. On 10 October, D company at 1445 hours at BS47727 in a stay behind patrol engaged one VC/NVA at 25 meters with claymores, small arms and M-79 rounds which resulted in four VC killed, one fragment grenade and sand bag full of rice was captured. There were no identification papers on the VC. Patrolling by the Battalion continued and on 11 October 70, D company along with the 174th Aviation Co. killed 5 VC at BS447730. Earlier Recon platoon's sweep found 4 M-16 rifles, three magazines, two AK-47 rifles and one pistol which were in bad shape. At BS499742 one of the aircraft with D company went down with mechanical troubles, one man had his leg broken and while unloading the downed ship the M-60 door gun went off wounding CWO Goodnight who was evacuated to Chu Lai but he died in route to the hospital. At 1320 hours C company at BS489685 observed one VC at 1,000 meters which they engaged with artillery. At 2030 hours on the "Hill" the Battalion captured one ARVN who was trying to sell drugs to the troops. Finally on that day D company received sniper fire and engaged 2-3 VC with artillery.

The 12th of October started out as a busy day when D company at 0746 hours at BS442759 received heavy small arms fire, then a few moments later received sniper fire from 100 meters away. They spotted 3-4 VC and engaged them with their 81 mm mortars. The company began to maneuver towards the enemy and at BS443758 small arms fire killed PVT William A. Neu. At 1255 hours at BS447762 they found 12-15 huts which had three women, one MAM and several babies who were evacuated. Later at BS442763 they found a 55 gallon drum of rice which they

destroyed .As they continued their sweep a booby trap was set of at BS442763 killing PFC Lary G. Batcher and wounding two other men. Finally that day at 1900 hours the company sniper at BS440762 spotted three VC in the open and killed two, while the other one evaded. C company at 1945 hours at BS487689 found 20 huts with pots and pans and other food and non military items.

The following morning as the supply ship was on the ground at D company at BS441759 it took 5-6 rounds without damaging the aircraft or hitting anyone. Meanwhile B company at BS437753 captured one VN male and rounded up 36 more women and children who were sent to Tu My. Later that morning the company found sleeping positions and engaged 2-4 VC killing one MAM and capturing one pack at BS443758. C company found a group of gardens at BS488697. At 0845 hours on 14 October as the resupply ship was going into B companies location at BS439754 it took several rounds of small arms fire but didn't damage the aircraft. Later at 1050 hours near BS436757 one soldier was wounded by friendly fire as he was trying to unjam his rifle. That afternoon B company received 15 rounds of small arms fire and returned the fire with artillery fire. As they went to check the area at BS446764 they hit a booby trap wounding five men who were evacuated . C company just before noon at BS487682 spotted one VC in the open and engaged him with artillery with unknown results. Later at BS485698 they found twenty spider holes with VC personal effects which they destroyed. That evening they found one mini gun canister filled with rice at BS526738. At about the same time Recon platoon at BS550714 engaged 4 VC with weapons killing one, wounding another one and capturing him and detaining the other two individuals. They captured two AK-47 rifles in the action. Early on the morning of 15 October at BS530757, A company ambushed 4 VC after they tripped a trip flare and then they engaged the enemy with small arms fire . They searched the island later and found two NVA killed and destroyed two sampans. Meanwhile the Battalion sniper team engaged 2 VC in a sampan killing one at BS531763. Recon platoon on its sweep at 0930 at BS550716 found two spider holes and found two AK-47 rifles, documents and food. At 1115 hours C company at BS483696 engaged one VC/NVA with artillery with negative results. That afternoon A company at BS530759 found a

camouflaged hut with a NVA canteen and peta which they destroyed. All that day A company collected ordnance from VN children as part of the VIP program . Later that night a trip flare was set of on the "Hill" and when they checked the area they found that the wire was cut and they engaged 6 VC with unknown results.

The next two days 16 and 17 October there were no activities of note and on the 18th at 1500 hours C company while on patrol at BS470714 had two men wounded by booby traps, later SGT Sidney Kurz died from his wounds. The 19th and 20th of October were quiet with no reportable finds or sightings except when Recon platoon at BS531759 found a hut covered with a thatch roof and it was an entrance into a bunker in the side of a hill, it had not been used recently and was destroyed. On the 21st of October action started to pick up when A company with its dog found a newly dug spider hole and the children started bringing in all kinds of ordnance. That afternoon the Battalion convey lead by Hq and Hq company had one of its 2 ½ ton trucks hit a mine at BS570727 killing PFC Ancel J. Moreno and wounding one other man. C company secured the road so the convoy could pick up D company and take them to the "Hill." By the end of the day at BS524750, A company had an extensive pile of ammunition derived from the VIP . The following day D company found two trails and holes that were booby trapped at BS445693. The Recon platoon found a 105 howitzer round booby trap at BS548700 and destroyed it. Later A company found a hole that had been booby trapped at BS524714 and blew it up. C companies platoon ambush at BS563732 engaged 2 VC then engaged 5 more with artillery and small arms fire resulting in one VC killed. Later that afternoon at BS566728 they captured a wounded VC which the children pointed out to them. He stated he was a part of a larger group resupplying Phu Truan VC. He had a pistol on him.

During the afternoon of 23 October 70 A company while on a search mission, found a base camp that had been recently used. 2,000 pounds of rice, 2 unknown type of foreign rifles, 2 AK-47's, 2 Thompson submachine guns, 2 AK-44, 2 105 Arty rounds, 1 B-40 rocket and miscellaneous small arms ammunition, blasting caps, medical supplies and clothing were found and evacuated. Most of the findings were at BS512704 and BS518702.

Also an NVA flag, red with gold lettering and a gold star in the center was found. Then at BS516704 two soldiers were wounded by small arms fire when one of the KCS rifle went off. Both men were evacuated to Chu Lai. Later that day A company in the area of BS524718 to BS522718 found one 81 mortar round and two cans of petna and a 105 artillery round booby trapped which they destroyed. As typhoon Kate was just off the coast and moving toward the Battalion AO the Battalion prepared for torrential rains. On the 24th of October Recon platoon observed 20 VC and detained one male and one female. While the platoon was interrogating the male the KCS killed the female without any reason. That afternoon D company found three booby traps of the press release type at BS438696 and destroyed them in place. The only activity on 25 October was when A company found a booby trapped 105 round and two other small booby traps at BS528709 which they destroyed.

On 26 October, the "Hill" was requested to evacuate a female from the village who had a bullet wound to her buttocks but had to be treated by the medics on the "Hill."

D company located at BS461688 had the resupply aircraft pick up one man with a fractured knee and returned to the "Hill." B company that morning at BS575723 detained one male with black pajamas who had a fresh haircut and rucksack marks on his back. From the children they received 26-60mm mortar rounds, 5 M-79 HE rounds and one M-79 canister which they destroyed. The children were paid with C-rations. That evening a VN civilian gave B company at BS566728 a black wallet with 23 sealed letters to B company men. The civilian stated he found the wallet where B company wounded a VC on 23 October. The next day on the 27th information from a 12 year old girl at BS512750 said she witnessed a U.S. soldier being killed by the VC. Further checking revealed it was a black soldier from LZ Stinson. The girl and body were evacuated to the "Hill" and the 198th Brigade took over the investigation. From the 28th of October only two incidents were reported and one was when the aerial observer reported 2 VC killed and a possibility of three more from fires from D battery at BS472715 that he saw on the 29th. On the 31st it was reported that the typhoon had just about 50% of the low land villages destroyed and

that the District Chief could distribute emergency rations. Also the roads to and from the "Hill" were impassable.

Throughout the next six months the 23rd Infantry Division was engaged in moderate fighting with elements being placed OPCON to both the 5th Mech Div and to the 101st Airborne Div as U.S. units started to turn bases and fire support bases over to the ARVN. The first few days of November were slow as on the 1st B company at BS579652 found a 105 round booby trapped and destroyed it and the Recon platoon evacuated one man with malaria. On the 2nd C company at BS508744 detained 8 VN females and observed them carrying rice at BS521745 all of who were later released. Later that afternoon at BS457733 they found four 10'x10' huts which they destroyed and then the Sharks observed 4 VC at BS469735, three of the aircraft were hit by small arms fire resulting in two U.S. soldiers from the 174th Aviation being wounded. C company engaged one of the VC and detained one female with a child. Meanwhile A company at BS558752 observed VC/NVA and engaged them with M-79 rounds and M60 machine gun fire. The next day as the Battalion mine sweep team was clearing the road they received small arms fire from the ARVN firing range. Seems the ARVN couldn't hit the target. Late that day C company at BS466742 lost a M16A1 rifle in the river. A company had a busy afternoon when at BS560757 they detained one VC male and then at BS560755 they observed three VC with packs and weapons whom they engaged resulting in one M-16 rifle captured and then at BS555757 found a wounded VC who they captured along with a U.S. pistol belt, and at the same location found and destroyed a booby trap.

Early on the morning of 4 November D company at BS571739 ambushed 5 VC however they found no bodies at daylight. The mine sweep team at BS568728 received 25-30 rounds of small arms fire without any one being hurt for a change. That afternoon A company at BS555744 found signs saying stay out, booby traps in the area. They found one U.S. fragment grenade, a 105 round and one U.S. bayonet in some bunkers which they blew. That evening D company while at BS568732 received two rounds of sniper fire without incident. The 5th was quiet with the only reports were from C company that at BS487746 they found and destroyed a 105 round

booby trap, and A company at BS500640 found 300 feet of rope that was booby trapped. They destroyed the rope and booby trap. 6 November was busier than usual as A company had a trip flare go off and upon investigation found a M-16 magazine which might have been a montagnard's as it was in their area. D company found another 105 round booby trapped at BS570748 and destroyed it. That afternoon B company found in the area of BS540645 to BS543646 a foot trail with commo wire along it and hooches that contained a hospital, they also found \$341 in 1968 MPC which they destroyed. D company in the late afternoon at BS569750 observed a MAM and wounded him and captured him and then sent him back to Bronco. Shortly there after at BS570748 they detained three MAM capturing a sewing machine plus two more male VN. That night A company spotted lights at BS515644 and engaged them with artillery. The next few days activity picked up as when on 7 November C company at BS570728 had a mechanical ambush go off killing one Dog. D company while patrolling at BS574742 checked out some huts and found about 150 pounds of rice in the 10 huts . Recon platoon at BS532705 found a gray plastic bag with a sensor device in it. Some unit had left it behind. B company found six sleeping positions at BS537651 and later found three RPG rounds which they destroyed at BS544646. D company was busy locating booby traps made from petna along the stream bank at BS573743 and at BS571754 they found a 9mm pistol, 200 pounds of rice, salt and 14 children who they did not detain. C company at 1515 hours had a mechanical ambush go off and they found one NVA pack but no body at BS563736. On the 8th of November, A company made contact with three NVA at BS490635 and after firing artillery they engaged five more NVA at BS494630 killing two of the enemy. They then found a hut at BS496633 with two 81mm mortar rounds which they destroyed. That afternoon they found chickens and medical supplies at BS496634 and a VC that had been killed by a mechanical ambush at BS496630. D company in the morning found a hut that was booby trapped at BS572753 which they destroyed and then they detained two females at BS565755. Again they found huts with two rooms, medical supplies, an M-16 rifle, documents and a 105 round in the same area they found 15-20 huts and 60-75 people. The District Chief took charge of the village. Also in the same area they found three more 105 artillery rounds and five 81mm mortar rounds that



were booby trapped so they destroyed them in place.

9 November was a busy day for D and A company. The day started when D company at BS567742 received small arms fire and after sweeping the area found some documents and one pack. Then at BS578752 they received 3-4 rounds of sniper fire without any casualties. As they continued their sweep at BS557722 they found a 3'x 25' bunker which had a MAM whom they captured and then they destroyed a booby trapped tunnel. They found various U.S. equipment, a flag and some more documents and rice which were sent back to the "Hill." That evening they took under fire two VC with weapons at BS578748 with negative results. Then D company 's sniper team took one VC under fire with unknown results at BS559758. C company was not so lucky as they had two soldiers break a wrist and ribs when they fell out of a chopper at BS465738 and then at 1625 hours a booby trapped 105 round wounded two members of the company at BS462736. In the afternoon A company found a hut at BS495628 with 400 pounds of rice which they destroyed and then at 1530 hours at BS496628 they received sniper fire and engaged two VC without any luck. As 10 November began, D company found a fragment grenade and an M-79 round which they destroyed at BS578732 and a hour later at BS564732 they found a hut with hot rice on the stove which they destroyed. As they continued their patrol they found six 6' X 6' bunkers with loaded M-16 magazines in them which they destroyed. A few feet later on a trail at BS566734 a booby trap wounded one soldier with fragments to his legs and stomach. C company at 1005 hours at BS466734 found a booby trapped C-ration can which they destroyed and then that afternoon at BS458728 they engaged one VC with artillery fire without success.

At about this time LTC J B Luke took over the Battalion from LTC Landry. Soon there after A company searching a tunnel found four M-16 magazines loaded, 12 SKS rounds, two NVA ponchos and other clothing at BS496629 then later at 1420 hours at BS499628 they received heavy fire from the south from an estimated three VC. This contact resulted in one soldier wounded by small arms fire and one man was wounded when the round in his M-79 launcher exploded in his weapon. The day drew to a close as D

company at BS563755 found a punji pit which they destroyed . The new Battalion Commander had a day of no activity after he took over the battalion but on the 12th of November, D company in their VIP report at BS538752 obtained a 250 pound bomb, one French 82 mm mortar, three M-79 rounds, two 40 mm rounds from a gunship, one M-16 loaded magazine, a 4.2mm mortar illuminating round, two 81mm mortar rounds, one fragment grenade, a 60mm mortar round, two CHICOM 81mm mortar rounds, a 105 artillery round with the fuse and a mine. This was obtained from about 30 VN children. At 1230 at BS588721 a three vehicle convoy consisting of a jeep and two 2 ½ ton trucks had a mine detonate under the last 2 ½ ton truck destroying the vehicle throwing the personnel 75-80 meters from the sight of the explosion. At the time there was a mine sweep team with the convoy but the explosion killed MSGT Garland P. Felton, D company First Sgt, PFC Jose G. Barrera, PFC John D. Barrett, SGT Donald W. Chipp Jr., PFC Titus L. Epps, PFC Jesse L. Kestler, SP4 Joe Billy McNett, CPL William C. Reed and Craig T. Reska. On the 13th, D company while blowing up the munitions obtained through the VIP, it got out of hand resulting in three soldiers being wounded and ten VN children hurt. Only one U.S. soldier had to be evacuated from the area at BS538752. At 1620 hours Recon platoon at BS468732 found an individual weapon. On the 14th at BS505735, Blue Ghost spotted three VC, they took fire and returning the fire killing two VC, D company sent a platoon to check out the area. From the 15th thru the 19th of November there were no reportable incidents as the new Battalion Commander met his Companies.

On the 20th D company at BS518742 found and destroyed a 4.2 mm mortar round and B company found a booby trapped mackerel can filled with petna at BS496716 and destroyed it. C company at BS475711 observed three VC and called artillery fire on them with unknown results. The 21st of November was quiet but on 22 November Recon platoon working with the Sharks spotted two VC with weapons at BS575750 resulting in one VC killed. The Recon platoon was inserted and during the insertion the aircraft received small arms fire wounding one crew member who was sent to Chu Lai. D company sent in a platoon to reinforce the Recon platoon. They found one VC killed by aircraft wearing black pants

and a blue shirt carrying a large supply of medical supplies. Later Recon platoon at BS582757 found three bunkers, a punji pit and five hooches which were all destroyed. They tripped a booby trap while in the area wounding three men from Recon platoon who were evacuated. Another booby trap of 82mm mortar or larger was exploded resulting in SGT Mateo Juarez, PFC Tommy Bowens, PFC Mark A. Larson and PFC David A. Bryan being killed and four more wounded by the booby traps. MG James L Baldwin took over the division from MG Milloy on 23 November. The Battalion mission was changed to reinforce the pacification program and secure the roads running North and South. Meanwhile B company at BS495717 evacuated a man with internal injuries caused by a fall. Recon platoon at BS565755 killed one VC while on its patrol. On the 24th of November, C company at BS534734 had a mechanical ambush detonate. Results one CAT KIA. Until the 26th of November all was quiet until E company while walking to the "Hill" from Quang Ngai found a mine with a battery on top of it and destroyed it in place. B company at BS514714 tripped a booby trap wounding one soldier. It was an old booby trap that had been in place for along time.

The Battalion now had the mission of securing various roads and operating the VIP program. On the 27th, C company surrounded a village at BS556724 and one female informed the company that there was four VC with AK-47 in the area. D company at BS483744 found a new wire cutter, and about the same time C company at BS567421 received 10 rounds of small arms fire and they engaged one VC and captured a pistol belt and some CHICOM grenades. C company at BS554724 found and destroyed a 105 round. LTC Luke while checking out the area where C company had surrounded the village reported that only women and children were there and without any men the village was suspicious. B company found a 105 round in a tree that was booby trapped at BS733631 and two more 105 rounds in trees at BS549722 which they blew in place. A company found one 60mm mortar round at BS537676 and destroyed it. On 28 November Recon platoon found a booby trapped M-79 round which would have been activated when it was stepped on it by a nail setting it off at BS559693. C company on patrol at BS547722 found a bunker 8'x6' with 3 feet of cover reinforced with steel and logs which they destroyed. Meanwhile at noon B

company at BS623460 saw a booby trap and one GI fired a M-79 round at it which hit a rock causing minor fragment wounds to one soldier. That night C company spotted three personnel and fired illumination which showed two more which they fired on without results. On 29 November Recon platoon at BS556695 had two mechanical ambushes detonate without results. That afternoon D company at BS475750 found a 12 foot tunnel that hadn't been used recently and they destroyed it. That evening A company at BS539673 had to evacuate a man who had a reaction to a previous blood transfusion. That evening Recon platoon found 15 sets of new foot prints at BS524693 and established ambushes in the area. The month ended when eleven VC Chu Hoi at BS542738 and went to Tu My. The 11th Brigade conducted Operation Iron Mountain with four Battalions in an effort to locate and destroy the VC Quang Ngai Provincial Headquarters and the 21st NVA Regiment. Due to U.S. and ARVN Division rice denial operations, many of the NVA and VC units faced severe supply problems. Elements of the 21st NVA regiment and the 406 and 403 Sapper Battalions concentrated on attacking ARVN positions during this period. In November action was sporadic at best with booby traps accounting for losses on both sides. The first of December 1970 started out quiet and until when on 2 December, a man walking up a hill was using his weapon for a walking stick with his hand over the muzzle when he slipped and the weapon went off injuring him. Meanwhile Recon platoon at BS570682 had a mechanical ambush detonate, when they checked it out they found a blood trail but it ran out, as they were returning another mechanical ambush went off and they received small arms fire. The point man shot one VC and gun ships were called in to suppress the fire they were receiving. There was only the one VC killed. C company platoon patrols at BS557652 had one man wounded by a booby trap, and D company killed one VC at BS520681. The following day was quiet but on 4 December C company while on a eagle flight at BS547634 one soldier wounded himself while on the ground and was evacuated to Bronco. Later C company reported that at BS572727 a dump truck from C company 26th Engineers hit a mine on CL518. The road had been swept and other trucks had gone over it. VN reported that they saw VC evading from the area after the truck was hit but no wires were found. Two men in the truck were wounded and evacuated to Chu Lai. On 5 December a man from D company was wounded at

BS454747.

On 6 December action picked up as when C company on platoon patrols had a mechanical ambush detonate at BS563640 in an entrance to a tunnel without any results and then at BS564641 they found a 155 round and a 60mm mortar round which were destroyed. At BS554632 they found three 51 caliber positions, two old spider holes and a base plate for a 51 caliber mortar. That afternoon at BS566644 they found a CHICOM hand grenade and a 60mm mortar round booby trapped which they destroyed. B company found fighting position at BS548744 and that night they observed four VC whom they engaged with negative results. D company found a CHICOM hand grenade booby trapped which they destroyed at BS453752 and then at BS452759 they found and destroyed three old huts. On Pearl Harbor Day, 7 December, A company found sleeping tunnels at BS531724 and detained four males and two females who were evacuated and after being checked out were returned to the area. A company found and destroyed two 155 howitzer rounds at BS520700 and destroyed them on 8 December. The next two days the VIP was continued and on the 10th, A company found a cave at BS515707 with six SKS rifles, three metal boxes of punji stakes, sleeping positions for 40-50 people one U.S. hand grenade and an old body that had not been buried. At another tunnel on the following day of 11 December 70 when A company was searching a tunnel complex at BS515705 and found a cache of one BAR, 2 AK-44 rifles, 1 M 1 Carbine and 1 SKS rifle. They also found a M-16 magazine, rice, huts, smoke grenades and one 500 pound bomb which they destroyed all without incident. On 12 December the Sharks took fire at BS450735 and inserted elements of B company who found two huts and a 60mm mortar round booby trap which they destroyed. They then found at BS450737 a bunker with over head cover and then they evacuated nine Chu Hois from BS524760 back to Tu My . At BS445733 they found a plastic cylinder and a 60mm mortar round which was booby trapped and destroyed. D company while at BS470684 saw lights and called artillery on them with unknown results. That after noon they had to evacuate two men from BS466671 who were injured when they fell over rocks? A company on patrol at BS515707 found a booby trapped grenade and one 57 mm round and one U.S. carbine and an old VC body. Later at BS515707 the

company KCS found a booby trap and the children in the area who were playing set it off wounding four VN children, one KCS and one U.S. soldier. Later in the same area A company found a cave with rice in it. They caved the cave in and gave the rice to the children. That evening C company at BS544710 had a trip flare go off and engaged two VC who were evading, but had no positive results.

A company on the night of the 13th of December saw lights at BS528702 and fired their 81mm mortars with negative results. Later that day at BS517715 they tripped a booby trap wounding one soldier. They found two more booby traps in the area which they destroyed. B company at 0117 hours at BS519739 observed two VC whom they fired on without hitting them. Later at BS542740 they had a mechanical ambush tripped and all they found was a hat. After lunch they found a dead VC in the water at BS549760 and then at BS464739 they found three tunnels that had been recently used. As they went into their night defensive positions one man was injured at BS527735 while setting out flares. Meanwhile C company at BS548711 found and destroyed a bunker. D company at 1600 hours at BS471666 destroyed two tunnels and destroyed a M-79 round booby trap at BS477675. The following morning Recon platoon found a 500 pound bomb case at BS462738 which they blew up. A company saw the first real action in a while when at 1430 hours at BS518673 they engaged and killed three VC and captured one other VC that had been wounded. In the same area they found food, 200 M-16 rounds and 300 rounds of AK-47 ammunition. The following day at BS521682 they found a bunker and at BS518679 they found a tunnel, both of which they destroyed.

The only incident from the 16th of December to the 25th of December was one man from D battery 6/11 Arty had to be evacuated from the "Hill" when a 55 gallon drum hit his hand and almost cut his finger off on the 23rd of December. Christmas was quiet as the Battalion pulled into defensive positions for the holiday. On 26 December 70 A Company detonated a booby trapped hand grenade at BS519752 resulting in one soldier wounded and evacuated. In the same area they found a tunnel that had four branch tunnels which they destroyed. That night C company at BS491760 had a trip flare go off and they engaged the area with negative

results. On 27 December, B company at BS551722 bought a M-79 round dud from the children. A company had a busy day when at 0430 hours at BS519752 they heard VN music coming from 300 meters from them which they engaged with small arms and M-79 fire. The music stopped! Later at BS518745 they detained two male VN, one 26 year old and one 46 year old. In the same area they found a cave and a spider hole which they destroyed. At BS519752 they found and blew a dud fire cracker round. As they continued the platoon patrols they found a sampan and tunnels at BS551759, three bunkers at BS536755 and a sign at BS555757 that said the area was booby trapped. Later in the evening they had to evacuate a soldier from BS552755 who was wounded setting out a trip flare. After dark the company received 4-5 rounds of small arms fire without any damage at BS519752.

On the 29th, A company had movement outside their position at BS519752 which they engaged unsuccessfully. However D company at BS555695 found four booby traps, two tunnels with NVA clothing which they destroyed. Then A company at two different locations, BS493743 and BS519752 found booby trapped mackerel cans and a 60mm mortar round which they destroyed. On 30 December, A company at BS522757 found a bunker hid in elephant grass with an NVA canteen which they destroyed. Then at BS524755 they found a concrete bunker with a 105 and a 155 round hid in it. They destroyed the bunker and the artillery rounds. B company received automatic weapon fire on their position at BS564730 which they engaged with 4.2mm mortars and artillery when they spotted three VC but didn't have any positive results. The year ended as D company at BS534687 found sleeping positions and M-60 ammo. New years was quiet and most activity was by aviation and artillery units.

As the Battalion began combat activities on 1 January 1971 the Recon platoon found several trails that had been used recently at BS531622. A company observed two VC carrying mortar rounds at BS597755 which they engaged. Later C company observed two personnel with lights at BS541635 whom they engaged with artillery and they heard one explosion and then a secondary explosion. The 2nd of January was all A company as they found at BS527758 5'x5' hooches and they contained booby

trapped 55 gallon drums of rotten rice. Then at BS511748 they observed three VC crossing the river and tried to hit them with artillery fire but were unsuccessful. Later they heard someone chopping wood and engaged they area with M-79 fire at BS465742. 3 January saw C company in its night defensive position receive one 60mm mortar round at BS555634, which they engaged with artillery. A company as it continued its sweep found one M-16 magazine and foot prints at BS513749 then at BS521756 they found a bunker that had pajamas and a hat in it which they destroyed.

The following day D company at the noon hour found and destroyed a hootch at BS525620, after lunch they found an old night location which had a 21mm round and two mackerel cans ready to be booby trapped at BS523627. That evening D company observed one VC/NVA in green whom they chased but then they felt that they were being led into an ambush as they started to receive small arms fire. They returned the fire and withdrew to the company defensive position. Recon that day had only one report and was that they found 20 sets of foot prints at BS543657. C company reported that their local PF were ambushed by 30 VC, the company fired on the VC as they evaded at BS564730, an hour later a trip flare went off at BS555634 and the company received three incoming mortar rounds. They fired counter battery fire on the suspected location with negative results. D company started the 5th of January of by finding a sign at BS522608 saying the area was booby trapped, along with the sign were punji stakes which were destroyed. That after noon D company found six fighting positions at BS534622 which they destroyed and then that night at BS532619 a trip flare went off and it was engaged with M-79 fire which wounded one of their own men who was near the trip flare. Later that night B company at BS535756 had a trip flare go off and when they engaged the area they received three bursts of automatic fire which didn't hurt any one. Early in the morning of 6 January C company at BS564730 had a trip flare go off and they spotted two VC whom they engaged with small arms and M-79 fire. When they received small arms fire in return they got mad and engaged the area with 4.2mm mortar fire. That afternoon D company had a man wounded by punji stakes at BS522608 and that night from their position at BS529635 they saw lights 700 meters from them which they engaged with artillery. At about the same time C company from their



position at BS543637 saw lights 1,300 meters from them and called artillery on them.

Before breakfast on the 7th of January D company had a mechanical ambush set off at BS532608 and they engaged the area with small arms fire with negative results. After lunch D company found an old base camp at BS522626 which had concertina wire around it . A tunnel in the camp contained one MAS- 36 and as they checked the area they engaged two NVA killing one and the other evaded with other people who had weapons. They then saw 15-20 NVA and the gunships were called in and after firing on the NVA all they found were some packs with supplies, documents and handgrenade's. The 8th was relatively quiet except that B company found a tomato can booby trapped at BS513748 and C company found and destroyed bunkers and a tunnel at BS549722. At 0530 hours on 9 January B company had a claymore detonate at BS521744; results, one dead animal. A company had a bad day when at BS538643 two soldiers were wounded and evacuated when the claymore they were putting out went off injuring both men. Then at BS538648 one of A companies men was putting out a trip flare when it went off. He hollered FRIENDLY but was wounded when one of his own men threw a grenade at him. C company at BS527721 had a mechanical ambush go off which they engaged the area with M-79 and 81mm mortar fire with negative results. Also their sniper at BS527721 fired on one VC and then fired on another one with an M-79 but both evaded. The next day was one of finding and destroying positions and booby traps, when A company found three tunnels at BS542640 and then Recon platoon found a 81 mm mortar illumination round at BS543675 . C company found a 105 round at BS563734. All the booby traps were destroyed but more were found on each day. That night B company at BS512745 had a mechanical ambush discharge without any results and at BS484744 they spotted nine VC/NVA whom they engaged with artillery.

Just after midnight on 11 January C company had two trip flares go off at BS555632 which they engaged without hitting anything and then A company at BS536640 observed lights and engaged they area with their 81mm mortars but found nothing. C company patrols found and destroyed two tunnels at BS545712. B company watched as a Brigade L.O.H. went

down in the river near BS503743. They searched the area and found the pilots helmet and map but did not find the pilot, WO-1 Robert D Black. That night C company at BS506746 received small arms fire which was returned without damage to either side. Meanwhile A company at BS533627 saw a camp fire and engaged the area with artillery and then they had a trip flare go off but saw nothing. A company on the morning of 12 January found and destroyed punji stakes at BS525608 and D company found a 81mm mortar round which was booby trapped at BS542712 which they destroyed. Recon platoon with its KCS found 15 sets of foot prints at BS530682 which were Ho Chi Minh sandals and boot tracks. Then A company at BS534633 found a 200'x200' area that had been cleared and contained punji pits and spears which were set up to deter a aircraft from landing. The pits and spears were destroyed. D company found another 81 mm mortar round booby trapped which they destroyed at BS533699. It seems strange that in the final year of conflict our own ammunition is being used against us. It sure doesn't say much for our control of our weapons and ammunition.

B company continued its search for the missing L.O.H. and at BS524752 engaged three VC with M-16 rifles whom they engaged with small arms and M-79 fire, then at BS527757 they found parts of the L.O.H. but didn't find the pilot. Early on the morning of 13 January B company had a sensor activate at BS515737 and they engaged the area with M-79 and 4.2 mm mortar fire. That afternoon D company detained six males and five females cutting wood and found two M26 grenades which were booby trapped at BS559632. A company on its patrol found an OP at BS562644 which had some documents. That evening D company had movement at BS555734 and then at BS557723 they spotted 30 VC/NVA moving which they engaged with artillery as the enemy moved south. The 14th reports were few except when A company found and destroyed a 105 round at BS528622 and D company detained one MAM at BS555728 and B company received six Chu Hoi of military age at BS491745. On the 15th, D company had a sensor go off at BS555634 which they engaged with artillery and then at BS538694 found four trails and sleeping positions which had not been used recently. Only one report was made on the 16th which was when D company found a man made cave with a 105 round in it at BS516701.

The 17th was a fruitful day in that A company engaged two VC with artillery and then had a trip flare go off at BS531671. Then at 1015 hours C company at BS528759 found the body in a flight suit of WO Black from 11th Brigade aviation. At BSBS492745 they found and destroyed a booby trap. On the "Hill" one soldier was wounded by an accidental gunshot in the messhall. Pfc. Montgomery's M-203 butted on Sgt Lane of B company and the round went through a magazine of another weapon resulting in Sp4 Donnie G Rainer of E Troop 4/21 being hit in the stomach and Pfc Weber and Sp4 Harry R Gilbert of D Btry 6/11 received minor wounds. On the 18th of January A company saw movement and had trip flares go off at BS527608 which they engaged with M-79 fire without hitting anything. That afternoon Capt Fisher was trying to locate three men that were on the body locating mission that got lost. C company received radio calls from them but they had no idea where they were and then they started to receive small arms fire which resulted in two soldiers being wounded and were finally found and evacuated three miles from where they thought they were at. A company found 36 rounds at BS520604 and 80 rounds of M-16 ammo at BS530609. That morning C company tripped a booby trap at BS523754 wounding two soldiers and then at BS525750 found illumination rounds and grenades in a spider hole which they destroyed. Finally at 2005 hours C company heard noises at BS518755, had a trip flare go off and saw some VC who they fired on and as the fire increased they saw and engaged several more but couldn't find any thing at first light.

The 19th activity was all D companies when they had a mechanical ambush detonate at BS561735 and found a 105 round booby trapped at BS551738 which they destroyed. On the 20th, Recon platoon surprised a group of VC in their defensive position at BS561664 and engaged them with small arms fire. They captured seven rucksacks and one AK-47 rifle. To reinforce the platoon D company inserted a platoon which joined in the search. All the rucksacks had food in them. The platoon from D company found seven one man fighting positions at BS558737 and old punji stakes which they destroyed. That evening as B company was setting up its mechanical ambushes they spotted two VC whom they engaged with negative results. From the 21st to the 23rd of January all was peaceful

without a contact any where in the AO.

On the afternoon of the 24th of January, D companies 1st platoon while at BS523698 saw two NVA taking a bath in the river, both had weapons on the bank. The platoon engaged the NVA with small arms wounding the NVA and letting the wounded VC escape. Not only did they ruin the enemies bath but captured the wounded NVA and captured one U.S. carbine. A check of the area determined the other wounded man went west. Unfortunately it was reported to Major Burns that the wounded NVA wouldn't be able to talk for a month or two as he was wounded in the mouth. Later at BS753290 D company found two NVA that had been killed by artillery. The 25th reports showed that D company had a VN evacuated at BS562732 who was wounded in the foot by a small booby trap called a toe popper between Tu My and the "Hill." A patrol from A company at BS523748, 1115 hours had 1st Lt David Wenzel wounded and evacuated from a booby trap he tripped. On the 26th of January the Battalion requested a "Rally to Light" for the "Hill" as it was suspected that the "Hill" might be hit on the night of the 28th of January . The Brigade Commander Col Insani was to make the decision the next day. However, there was no activity on the 27th and on the night of the 28th a radio operator from D Btry 6/11th had a radio intercept on his channel stating they would be hit that night but nothing happened. Although everyone was alert the 29th was also quiet and on the 30th, a platoon patrol from D company had a man trip a booby trap at BS553631 and that ended the activities for the month. On the 29th of January 1971 the 11th Brigade (-) went OPCON to the 101st Airborne Division while leaving a small command post element at Bronco to control the Battalions left in the Brigade AO.

The first of February to the 10th, the only activity that was reported was that the 4.2mm mortar platoon fired four missions and the battalion had 42 mechanical ambushes set off in the AO, mostly from PF and RF forces with a total result of one raccoon killed. Also a U.S. soldier was wounded on 6 February as he set out a trip flare. Finally on the 10th at 1137 hours at BS503593 A company was in contact with 6-8 VC in well dug in positions. Two men were wounded and evacuated after the gunships gave fire support and destroyed the positions. The following day on 11 February, A

company spotted two NVA at BS503593 and engaged them with small arms fire resulting in one NVA killed an AK-47 with two magazines and three handgrenade's captured. The NVA was dressed in green but had no documents. The other NVA soldier evaded to the north. D company while at BS524645 spotted and engaged two NVA who were 25 meters to the north. Both of the men were carrying rucksacks, the contact resulted in one NVA killed while the other evaded to the northwest. The NVA was wearing a green shirt and brown kacki pants and carried a knife. The following day, Recon platoon found 3 new 75mm recoilless rounds which were sent to Bronco and B company at BS488739 had two mechanical ambushes set off with negative results. It is assumed that as shown in the journals that Major Burns was the Battalion S-3 and a Captain Verkuillen was the assistant S-3 and an officer by the name of Baynham was the S-3 Air.

On the 13th of February the Recon platoon found and evacuated a 82mm mortar round at BS729645. A company on a patrol found a hootch with a rucksack, rice, one B-40 round and a handgrenade at BS502593 and then that afternoon they received small arms fire from four VC in the vicinity of BS504587 which wounded two soldiers.

C company had men on an eagle flight which located a bunker with clothing in that had been used recently at BS487705. After destroying the bunker they found a rocket pod from an ARA aircraft that had 7 rockets in it which they destroyed. Finally that day

C company found two hooches with two 60mm mortar rounds in them which they destroyed at BS445734. That afternoon at 1430 hours the Recon platoon had a mechanical ambush discharge. As they went to check they received small arms fire and they captured one wounded NVA. At BS503502 A company found a body that had been killed by artillery so D Btry 6/11 was given the credit for the kill. The 14th was a quiet day without any reportable incidents but on the 15th at 1130 hours while on a sweep at BS467742 the 2nd platoon of C company hit a booby trap pressure type device believed to be 1 ½ pounds of petna resulting in one more soldier of the Battalion being wounded by booby traps. At 1725 hours a combined patrol of the third platoon of D company and RF forces had to evacuate one female and a child who was wounded in the knee. The incident took place

on the rifle range and since the woman was pregnant it was thought she had better be seen by a doctor as she had an injury to the head. All this was caused by fire from ARVN troops and the child was evacuated on a motor bike. At 2130 hours A company at BS503587 had observed movement 25-30 meters from their position, and they opened fire and received 60 rounds in return from 2-3 VC wounding SP4 Stanley E. Redman in the face who was evacuated to Bronco and later died from his wounds.

On 16 February, C company found a rucksack with clothes and documents at BS446763 and then later they found and destroyed a booby trap at BS481748. D company from its position at BS464730 evacuated a VN male who had tripped a booby trap. A company as it was moving to their pick up zone on 17 February at BS504581 received one round of small arms fire, a check determined no damage to any one so they didn't return the fire. The following day the Battalion started to turn over local check and security OP's to the RF and PF. The Battalion also received notice that the Recon platoon was put on stand by for the Brigade and would not be committed without the Brigade Commanders approval. The 19th was quiet as B company found a cave with a 2.75 mm rocket at BS488597 and destroyed it. C companies sniper team located at BS463737 engaged two VC in the open, one fell and the other ran like the devil was after him. C company had all the action on the 20th when at 1050 hours they found a bunker and a hootch at BS452764 which they destroyed and then at BS448739 they located a booby trapped 82mm mortar round which they blew and then at BS448731 they found and destroyed 8-10 sleeping positions.

The 21st of February the Recon platoon did their job by locating the enemy when at 0930 hours at BS513767 they observed 4 NVA whom they engaged killing one. A platoon from C company was inserted to block the enemy escape . As the Recon platoon moved out at BS512667 they received 6-9 rounds of sniper fire with negative results and finally at BS512667 they found three large hooches which had pots and pans, maps, documents and one AK-47 rifle which were evacuated . C company found a field of marijuana at BS471745 which they burned, or so the report reads.

B company found an 82mm mortar round at BS485615 and destroyed it and then at 1335 hours at BS486614 they evacuated one man with a wound of some sort to his eye. The only activity for the next two days was when C company found a cave with a belt and a canteen at BS513666 and the convoy traveling to the "Hill" received one round of small arms fire without any damage and C company found three caves and spider holes with an NVA belt at BS511668.

The only activity the Battalion had from the 24th of February to the 27th came when on the 24th, A company tripped a bobby trap at BS519715 wounding two soldiers, one of whom was the dog handler. The dog was not injured. The following day A company found a cave at BS513706 with stretchers, a U.S. canteen and 7 M-16 rounds which they destroyed, later at BS512707 they had a mechanical ambush discharge! Results one animal KIA. The Recon platoon that night spotted lights at BS500763 and called artillery fire in on the position with negative results. As the Battalion prepared to go OPCON to the 198th Brigade on the last day of the month, the 2nd platoon of A company at BS473736 tripped a booby trap consisting of a can of petna with a pressure release type firing device which was on the side of the trail resulting in one soldier wounded and evacuated to Chu Lai.

The Battalion became a part of Operation Finny Hill and was under the control of the 198th Brigade as the operation started on 1 March 1971. The Battalion was settling down from rice denial operations and during the first and second of March received their orders from the 198th Brigade and changed over radio frequencies and got used to reporting to a different headquarters. The 3rd of March saw the first platoon of C company detain three MAM at BS692543 and later release them on instructions from the District Chief. A company had a mechanical ambush detonate at BS481716 with negative results and the second platoon of A company found and destroyed a 155 howitzer shell at BS483703. The next day the second platoon of A company found a bomb whip, an animal trap, five fish traps and a fishing pole at BS488712 . Meanwhile A company (-) found a series of spider holes at BS476712 which they destroyed. On the 5th of March the second platoon of A company found three spider holes and one

6'x 4'x 4' hut and 150 handgrenades which they blew at BS445748. The "Hill" engaged 10 lights with the 40mm duster at BS530735 and the lights went out. When the lights came back on the "Hill" received small arms fire so they engaged the lights with 81mm mortar fire, this time the lights went out for good. The 6th of March saw the first U.S. casualties of the month when the third platoon of C company detonated either a 155 or 8" round at BS559719 which was booby trapped with a trip wire killing SP4 Thomas A. Toledo, PFC Johnnie L. Pryear, SP4 John A. Luke a KCS and wounding three other men of the platoon including SP4 Edward Benson. That afternoon the second platoon of A company found and destroyed an 81mm mortar dud at BS547627. That evening C company observed one VN and fired artillery on the suspect and received small arms fire in return at BS564733.

The 7th of March was tough on trucks as a convoy enroute to the "Hill" at BS572726, the pressure test vehicle detonated a mine which left a 7'x 4' crater and destroyed the vehicle. The rest of the day saw the second platoon of C company find an anti personnel mine at BS565731 and destroyed it in place, and then the first platoon of D company had a trip flare go off at BS545627 but saw nothing. On the next three days the third platoons of A, B, and D companies saw all the action when on the 8th the third platoon of A company at BS507737 destroyed a 105 booby trapped round and then the RF received fire on OP Legionnaire with one U.S. soldier being wounded but not evacuated. On the 9th the third platoon of B company detonated a booby trapped round, wounding one soldier who was evacuated from BS522706 . The 10th saw the third platoon of D company destroy two 81mm mortar round duds. One was an HE round and the other was an illumination round. On the 11th of March the first platoon of D company found a note which they couldn't read, 10 60mm mortar rounds, three 60mm mortar fuses, one B40 nose cone and one AK-47 which were in two tunnels. The weapons were evacuated and the tunnels were destroyed.

Action was dull until the 13th of March when the first platoon of A company blew three dud 155 rounds at BS665584. B company when it landed in its LZ found a CHICOM handgrenade which they blew at BS695593. A



company in their search, found a hut with aluminum siding at BS645584 with 200 pounds of spoiled rice and then at BS670588 detonated a booby trap wounding four men who were evacuated to Chu Lai, and then at BS667586 they found a claymore, M-16 parts and two bear traps. Meanwhile the first platoon of A company at BS667586 found and destroyed one 12'x 10' and three 4'x 2'x 3' bunkers and hooches. They also found an M-16 magazine, petna, AK-47 rounds, two NVA helmets, corn and a 51 caliber sight . The Recon platoon at BS564742 engaged two VC/NVA in a boat and damaged the boat. The following day on the 14th of March the first platoon of A company destroyed a booby trapped Coke can at BS652583. The first platoon of B company destroyed a 5'x10' bunker at BS600592 and then found and destroyed a two story bunker at BS599591. The 15th of March saw a child bring a white phosphorous mine into OP legionnaire to the second platoon of D company at BS565730 . A company heard gunshots to the North of their position at BS659592 and fired artillery on the suspect location . The company also had a mechanical ambush detonate at BS647584 with negative results. On the 16th of March at 1200 hours, the third platoon of B company found and destroyed two 81mm mortar rounds at BS594573 and the second platoon of B company found a booby trap, bunkers and 60mm mortar sight at BS595583. That night C company at 2030 hours observed and engaged 5-6 flashlights with artillery from their position at BS604594.

On the 17th the third platoon of B company at BS603578 found a VC night defensive position that was at least three months old which had 100 fighting positions, a booby trapped can of oil and a stove, which they destroyed. That noon the first platoon of A company at BS645565 destroyed a 155 artillery round and one can that contained petna and was booby trapped. The third platoon of A company found a structure 6'x8'x6' containing black pajamas and jungle fatigues at BS634577 which they burned. A company was ordered to move close to the river and set up ambushes and interdict any traffic along or on the river. The 18th was a day full of mine fields and booby trap incidents which started when the second platoon of B company found two B40 rockets which they blew in place at BS601582 and then the first platoon of D company at BS597554

detonated an anti personnel mine wounding one soldier and as they were calling in the Dust Off bird they found that they were standing in the middle of an area that was full of mines and booby traps. Since there was so many of them and they couldn't tell how they were set out, the platoon was air lifted out without any aircraft landing. The first platoon of A company at BS645575 found three graves of NVA that had been killed by small arms fire, fighting positions, handgrenades and one M-79. The kills were credited to the ARVN who had been in the area earlier. The only activity on the 19th and 20th was when the first platoon of D company found two hooches which were 5'x5', three handgrenades, two RPG rounds some documents, a letter, one 250 pound bomb casing and one booby trapped ammo can .At 0655 hours on the 21st of March the third platoon of A company had a mechanical ambush detonate at BS630574: Results, one bird KIA. Later that morning as A company was being resupplied at BS615551 the aircraft received three rounds of small arms fire but wasn't hit. Later that morning the second platoon of A company found three old fox holes, one NVA poncho, one 9mm pistol holster and one petna booby trap at BS622563. That day a Headquarters and Headquarters Company 2 ½ ton truck killed a VN female on the road and the driver and truck were taken to District Headquarters. The driver and the vehicle were released when the District was paid 118,000 piasters. I wouldn't make a bet that her family ever saw any of the money.

The next day was quiet but on the 23rd of March A company saw movement and fired artillery on the movement from its position at BS630579, the Recon platoon at BS540635 observed a VC company in the open which they engaged with all their fire power, artillery, night hawk joined in and a flare ship provided light until all was quiet. A search of the area later found nothing. At 1915 hours C company at BS528638 observed two VC digging a hole and fired their 81mm mortars on them with unknown results. Later at 2020 hours D company at BS586542 observed moving lights and fired small arms fire and M-79 fire on it with negative results. The following day the second platoon of C company while at BS538638 heard VN voices and found a bunker but couldn't find who was talking. The 25th of the month saw A company at BS616558 detain one 20 year old male and one 25 year old female without any I.D. and they sent them to

Nghia Hanh. Later the first platoon of A company at BS628564 observed four personnel go into a village, shortly after, they heard small arms fire and as three MAM left the village the platoon detained them and sent them to Nghia Hanh. That night the third platoon of D company at BS586548 heard movement and engaged the area with small arms fire with negative results.

On the 26th, D troop 1/1 Cav working with the Battalion destroyed a metal structure at BS645580 . The second platoon of C company found a cave at BS492657 which had three AK-47 rifles and 200 pounds of polished rice. Later they observed three VC with weapons at BS495660 and fired artillery and 81mm mortar fire on them with negative results. The third platoon of C company while at BS487657 found a Montagnard baby that had its throat cut and stuffed into a barrel. Finally that day the "Hill" received small arms fire and returned the fire with 81mm mortar and rifle fire without any damage to either side. The next day while the men on the "Hill" checked the perimeter they found foot prints and expended M-16 rounds but no blood or body. The first platoon of B company at BS500646 found three M60 rounds which they sent to FSB 411. At 1500 hours the fourth platoon of C company at BS501655 found two huts five feet off the ground which were 4'x 6'. There was a canteen, an SKS rifle, mines and other military items which were evacuated to the "Hill." On the 28th the first platoon of C company found a 20'x1'x3' cave with 60 pounds of rice, medical supplies, corn and 30 caliber ammunition and one M-16 rifle. On the following day of the 29th, first platoon of D company found a 3'x8" napalm bomblet at BS771722 which they destroyed. Later D company at BS475717 found a 500 pound bomb and called in the EOD team to destroy it. Later that afternoon B company found three straw huts at BS495632 and at BS495631 found 300 pounds of rice which they destroyed. At 1830 hours at BS490655 the second platoon of C company found nine baskets of rice and a large cultivated field. At about the same time D company at BS467724 received small arms fire wounding three soldiers who were evacuated. The fire was returned but it was inconclusive. The 30th of March saw Headquarters and Headquarters company while at BS586722 have a mine detonate killing a VN male and a VN female. That afternoon the second platoon of C company at BS489655 found one military structure 4'x 6'x 3' containing 200 pounds of rice and a small amount of locally grown

corn. That evening D company while at BS474740 received 15-20 rounds of small arms fire which they returned and also called in artillery fire on the suspected location. That night the top of the bunker containing the Duster located on the "Hill" caught on fire. It seems a small arms round set of some other explosive material which was on top of the bunker.

On the last day of March the second platoon of C company at BS497662 destroyed two booby trapped 81mm mortar rounds and two cans of petna. B company at 1130 hours while searching at BS490633 found a 6'x 6'x 4' structure with eating utensils, cultivated fields, 300 rounds of M-16 ammunition, one M-79 launcher and trip flares. Near by at BS490630 they found a cave with four bags of unpolished rice. That night A company had a mechanical ambush detonate at BS483705 with negative results. April Fools day was quiet or at least there were no reports sent to the Brigade from the Battalion. Although the enemy activity was light, consisting primarily of sniper fire throughout the Battalion AO, April saw the enemy activity on the increase and at 0130 hours on the 2nd of April, A company in its night defensive position at BS480708 received 8-10 handgrenades and small arms fire from four VC resulting in 7 men being wounded and evacuated. No known enemy casualties were counted. That morning, the second platoon of A company located at BS480708 while being resupplied by the 174th Aviation Company they received 30-40 rounds of small arms fire wounding one soldier. The company started to sweep the area and received 30 rounds of automatic fire and the company called in artillery on the location. The company still found nothing that could be identified as enemy. Later the second platoon of A company while at BS491716 found one 105 round which they blew in place. That night the "Hill" observed lights at 300 meters to the North and fired illumination and small arms fire at the lights.

The following day C company while on the "Hill" detained one VN male who had a smoke grenade, one handgrenade and five vials of heroin which he was trying to sell. A company while on its search mission had the third platoon find a grave, one stick of C-4 and cooking utensils at BS471735 and A company found a 105 round booby trapped at BS479712 which they blew in place. Later, the third platoon of A company while at BS561803

found and destroyed a 250 pound bomb. The 4th of April started out with two VN being wounded by ordnance that was on the dump fire near the "Hill". They were treated by the Battalion surgeon and released. That night A company in its night defensive position at BS499731 engaged one VC with M-79 and artillery fire with unknown results. The 5th was relatively quiet with the third platoon of A company at BS473735 finding and destroying a 105 dud round and D company found a 60mm mortar round at BS516604 which they destroyed. The action started early on 6 April when B company had a trip flare go off at BS498631 at 10 minutes after midnight. They fired artillery and 81mm mortar fire with negative results. Later in the morning the third platoon of B company at BS489643 found 50 pounds of polished rice. That evening at 1940 hours A company while at BS474733 received small arms fire from one to two VC. They returned the fire with small arms fire and artillery fire without hitting anything. Later in the evening the Recon platoon while at BS481761 observed three sampans with eight VC who split up and tried to surround the platoon. The Recon platoon engaged them as they came close and then pulled back and fired artillery into the location they had been at.

The 7th of April at 0930 the third platoon of A company found one AK-47 and a magazine at BS473735. Later the second platoon of D company received 10 rounds of small arms fire while they were at BS507607. They returned the fire with artillery fire with negative results. The second platoon of A company at BS476724 observed movement and engaged it with handgrenades with unknown results. The second platoon of D company found five bunkers 5'x3'x2' and a 150' tunnel at BS517609 which they destroyed. Meanwhile the third platoon of D company engaged two VC at BS516603 killing one who was wearing black pajamas and captured one M-16 rifle, five magazines and one U.S. handgrenade. Later that night the Recon platoon engaged a sampan at BS485785 killing one VC. The following day the second platoon of A company found an 81mm mortar dud which they destroyed at BS477732 and later A company at BS465736 found 1,278 M-16 rounds and 15 M60mm mortar rounds in a cave. They also found one booby trap can of petna. At just about lunch time the third platoon of A company while moving at BS464737 received 15 rounds of small arms fire from three to four NVA. They returned the fire but found

nothing during the sweep of the area.

The 10th of April started when the third platoon of C company had a mechanical ambush detonate at BS459715, they engaged the area with M-79 fire and found blood trails which they followed and captured one wounded NVA with his pack, two AK-47 magazines and one handgrenade but they didn't find a weapon. Later the first platoon of C company at BS456714 engaged two VC moving north west with unknown results, and then the second platoon of C company at BS461702 engaged 15 to 20 VC who returned their fire. The platoon then called in artillery fire and found blood but nothing else. The following morning the third platoon of C company at BS459708 swept the area of their previous night action and found another NVA wounded with a pack, handgrenades and one AK-47 rifle. The second platoon of C company at BS463702 found from the previous nights action, one hammock, one net hat, two anti tank mines and 25 rounds of ammunition . At 1430 hours the Battalion reverted back to the 11th Infantry Brigades control.

On 11 April 71 the 11th Brigade assumed control of Operation Finney Hill . At the same time, Col W S Goodwin assumed command of the 11th Brigade from Col J L Insani. That day the 2nd platoon of D company while on patrol at BS501607 engaged two VC killing one which did not have a weapon, he was wearing a green shirt and black shorts. On the 12th, C company at BS453698 spotted 40-50 VN civilians, as they were not carrying packs or carrying weapons they were allowed to proceed. C company sent a patrol to check them out after hearing a handgrenade explode. The platoon then made contact with an unknown sized force whom they returned small arms fire with and then called in artillery fire and asked for gunship support. The fire fight resulted in one VC killed and the company detained 16VN children, four MAM and one woman. There were no casualties to U.S. forces. For a change the convoy from the "Hill" to Quang Ngai on 14 April went the distance without incident. It was quiet the next day and then at 1340 hours on the 16th the 2nd platoon of D company at BS470682 found six graves one which was 20-30 days old and 5 graves that were buried within the last five days. The bodies were all male of military age that had been killed by small arms or M-79 fire and were

dressed in black pajamas, some had sandals and one had jungle boots. Some ammunition was found in the area. On the afternoon of 17 April 71 at BS476726, B company detonated a booby trapped hand grenade resulting in three men wounded and evacuated. B company sniper was credited with a KIA on the previous day. On the 18th of April, B company at BS454723 found a booby trapped 155 round with a trip wire and small grenade fuse as the detonator. On soldier took the fuse from the booby trap, pulled the pin and tried to throw it but detonated in his hand severely wounding him . He was evacuated to Chu Lai at 1720 hours.

On the 19th, first platoon of B company at BS447738, while in their night defensive position found a cardboard box with red, yellow and blue stripes. Inside the box was a brown colored substance that looked like used chewing gum. The writing on the outside said "Chi Khai Woan Nha Thuoc Quang Duc Te 69 DG Tan Thang Cholow". It was sent to the "Hill" What it meant I have no idea. Again on 20 April 71 B company in the vicinity of BS447738 again detonated 2 booby trapped handgrenade's resulting in serious wounds to 4 U.S. soldiers. The RTO tripped the first booby trap and when the platoon medic and two others went to help they tripped the second one, the booby traps were handgrenade's armed by trip wires. At 1035 hours B company at BS480740 hit a booby trap which was a LRRP ration bag filled with petna and a pressure type firing device wounding one soldier. On the 22nd, aircraft from the 123rd aviation killed four VC, two of which were male and the other two were female, they also captured some packs but no weapons. On the 23rd, Recon platoon had a mechanical ambush detonate at BS471665 killing one VC and capturing two AK-47 which were in excellent condition. One of the AK-47's was Russian and the other one was Chinese. The VC was wearing sandals, black clothing. The VC that had been wounded evaded to the west and the Recon platoon tried to trail the blood trail. Showing that the planned draw down was starting all Beacon equipment was turned in starting on the 24th of April. C company reported on the 25th that they had a mechanical ambush detonate killing one pig . D company at BS497664 found a grave 3-5 days old with a male about 26 years old wearing black pajamas and the kill was credited to D company from the contact on 21 April.

At 1100 hours on the 26th D company saw a VC moving east on a trail with a M-16 rifle wearing black pajamas whom they engaged and killed capturing the rifle and its full magazine at BS487664. A company of the 39th Engineers while moving from Quang Ngai to Tu My village had a 5 ton truck detonate a mine that destroyed the truck and left a hole 8'x 4' deep. The driver was wounded and evacuated to Chu Lai.

The 27th at 1645 hours Fire Support Base Debbie (BS872324) was closed and the 4th Battalion 21st Infantry was relocated to Fire Support Base San Juan Hill (BS634380). On the 28th a motor bike traveling the road to the "Hill" hit a mine killing two VN even though they were evacuated to Quang Nghi. On 29 April 71, D company while searching a tin roofed structure at BS497699 uncovered a cache of 100 individual weapons and 27 crew served weapons of various types and manufacture. The cache total was 68 machineguns and submachine guns, 27 semi automatic rifles, 19 bolt action rifles, three 60mm mortars, three recoilless rifles a 50 caliber machine gun, one RPG, French, Soviet and Chinese rifles and various ammunition most of which was 7.62x45. Also found were two Swedish 9mm submachine guns. D company had to evacuate two men from BS495675 and BS555684 because of heat injuries. Our supporting Artillery Battery D Btry provided direct support to the Battalion with 4 tubes on 411 and two at Nghia Hanh BS616642. Those two tubes were moved back to the "Hill" on 6 November 70 . On 30 December 70 two tubes were moved to Minh Long BS534515 to support the Battalion in the local area.

By the end of April 1971 all of the tubes of D Battery were back on the "Hill."The Battery commander sure was glad to get all his tubes back where he could see what they were doing since they had been spread out for such a long time. Starting in May 1971 the VC/NVA didn't extend their power base beyond the mountains in the western part of Quang Ngai. The spring offensive was aimed at disrupting the Divisions pacification program by attempting to discredit the GVNS ability to protect the people from attack, in this effort the main concern was to disrupt the elections by attacks on the villages by indirect fire. The Brigade still faced the 21st NVA Regiment and the 406th Mainforce Sapper Battalion.



The Battalion continued its patrolling actions with its efforts to disrupt the VC and NVA by rice denial operations throughout the Battalion AO. The Battalion continued to be involved in Operation Finney Hill . The Battalion moved all the companies on to high ground as the typhoon season had started, torrential rains and flooding was rampant. On 2 May, C company at BS570653 got into a disagreement with the local RF as to who controlled the area and the RF fired on the company, but didn't cause any casualties. Command and Control problems were becoming more tense as responsibilities were being turned over to the ARVN. The next morning C company had a mechanical ambush discharge and the company found blood and a black hat. Recon platoon at BS444737 found a booby trap and blew it in place. On the 4th, A company found five bunkers which they destroyed at BS502665 and then C company had a mechanical ambush detonated at BS536712 killing one VC and they captured one M-16 rifle. The 5th of May the Recon platoon had a trip flare go off at BS444751 when they engaged the area with small arms fire it was to no avail. Later that day A company found and destroyed two hootches at BS482657 and on the following day at BS422664 they found a grave with one male NVA that had been killed by the a pre prep fire the previous day. That night the "Hill" observed lights and engaged them with artillery with negative results.

On 8 May 71 at 0855 hours, BS443745 Recon Platoon detonated an unknown type booby trap resulting in three soldiers wounded and evacuated, from then on action was quiet until 13 May when A company at BS476683 found four graves with male VC who had been killed by small arms fire. On the 15th of May, A company killed a female VC at BS492681 during an ambush. On the 16th a man was injured from C company at BS451682 who injured his left index finger cutting trail. The following day a man with a temperature of 106 was evacuated from C company at BS457700. On the 18th during a mine sweep at BS572727 a man from B company and two men from A company 39th Engineers were wounded when they tripped a booby trapped mine. On the 19th, C company had to evacuate one soldier with a dislocated knee and one with heat exhaustion from BS609581. Later a man from the company while moving into the night defensive position kicked a thorn bush and later he broke out in a rash and a high fever and had trouble breathing and he was evacuated to

Chu Lai. From then until on the 23 of May 71 when C company found 1 NVA killed at 1520 hours at BS630575 it was quiet and without any fire fights. Then on the 26th of May, C company received small arms fire in the vicinity of BS581593 at about 1935 hours, which resulted in one soldier being wounded and evacuated.

On the 27th a platoon patrol from C company had a man wounded by a booby trap at BS581593. At 1900 hours on the 28th of May the Battalion sniper team located at BS539764 observed a sampan moving east to west on the river. After receiving clearance from the District Chief the team killed the VC and saw the body floating in the water but couldn't recover it. A company had the only action from then until the end of the month when at 2115 hours at BS540589 had a mechanical ambush detonate with the grand results of one PIG being killed and it was beyond help and couldn't even be eaten. The first day of June was quiet except that A company had a mechanical ambush detonate at BS312358 with negative results and C company found a M 60 and destroyed it at BS503563. C company had a man hit by fragment from an incoming 81mm mortar round which hit his left arm at BS509569 and then the company found a booby trapped 105 round which they destroyed at BS503563. On 3 June 71 a sniper team from the Battalion detonated a booby trapped handgrenade resulting in one member of the team being wounded and evacuated. The team made up for it by killing one VC at BS475726. The next two days saw C company observe one VC/NVA at BS510566 whom they received fire from but their return fire was ineffective. B company found and destroyed a booby trapped 82mm mortar round at BS567586. Then D company had a man cut his foot and required evacuation from BS557583, and C company engaged four VC with packs and weapons with their 81mm mortars at BS514563 without any confirmed hits.

On the morning of the 7th of June B company had a man fall into a punji pit and had to be evacuated from BS507644 and later that day C company had a soldier wounded by punji stakes at BS500562. The only activity on 8 June was when B company found a hootch at BS500634 with sleeping positions and a 81mm mortar round and a 81mm mortar illumination round with other noise makers trip wired and hanging from trees. They destroyed

them all to include the hootch. On the 9th, Recon platoon observed and engaged two VC killing both and capturing a AK-47 rifle and a metal frame for carrying ammunition. C company fell victim to punji stake again with one more man wounded at BS511568. On this day the Division Command changed hands when BG B. K. Gorwitz took over the Division from MG James L. Baldwin. The 10th of June saw how badly the officers and men were trained about explosives, when D companies trash truck driver discovered a booby trap in the gas tank of the truck which he took out and threw it away while at BS537730. A lieutenant picked up the booby trap and put it in a can and started to walk back to the "Hill" when it blew up as he was carrying it. He lost his right arm and both of his legs were severely wounded. That night Recon platoon had a mechanical ambush detonate at BS512665 with negative results. On 11 June A company found a bunker at BS453537 and destroyed it. The next day D company had a mechanical ambush detonate at BS499663 and called artillery fire in on the position without any positive results. Again the next day D company while at BS611572 had another claymore go off and they engaged the area with small arms fire and M-79 rounds without doing any damage.

On 15 June, D company conducted a combat assault to secure FSB Dottie for the Brigade. On 16 June, D company observed movement at BS585568 and engaged the area without hitting anything. Recon platoon discovered a base camp under construction at BS528668. It had fighting positions for 20-30 people, rice storage and 60mm mortar gas rounds which they destroyed. The following day C company moved to FSB Dottie as additional security for the Brigade headquarters. Action in the Battalion AO remained quiet and then on 18 June 71, D company had one of their mechanical ambushes detonate at BS614556 resulting in 3 NVA killed and 3 AK-47's, 4 magazines, 7 CHICOM hand grenades, two belts and one U.S. pistol belt captured and sent back to the "Hill." Later at BS601552 they found a hootch with a M-16 magazine which was booby trapped and they destroyed it. Early on the next morning D company had a mechanical ambush detonate at BS609559 resulting in one Mountain Lion KIA. Later that morning, A company who was working with the Engineers found a booby trap containing 30 pounds of nitroglycerin at BS561732. This was the first time nitro had been used in booby traps.

The 20th of June was a bad day for A company when at 0155 hours at BS548649 they heard movement and threw hand grenades. After checking they threw another handgrenade and the man was wounded by his own grenade and he was evacuated. At 1100 hours at BS545651, 1st Lt Marlin M Miller during a break went to relieve himself. He returned to the platoon position and soon after went back out to defecate. A gunshot was heard and they found him shot in the head by his own weapon which was later ruled as a suicide. B company during an air assault on the 21st of June into the LZ at BS504703 hit a booby trapped C-ration can wounding one soldier who was evacuated to Chu Lai. On 21 June 71 the Battalion sniper team engaged 4 VC in the vicinity of BS542760 resulting in two VC killed.

On the 22nd of June the 11th Brigade headquarters turned over Bronco to the 4th ARVN Division and moved its Headquarters to FSB Dottie. Meanwhile, A company securing the engineers found rice in several holes and punji stake pits and had a VN female trip a booby trap in the area around BS561734. Booby traps were being set off regularly by the dozers as they dozed up the area . On the 25th, A company moved to the village Minh Long without incident. Booby traps again took their toll when on 26 June 71 they wounded three men from C company at BS506660. The next day B company found a ANPRC 25 radio at BS608551. The month closed out when A company found and destroyed a booby trapped 105 round at BS492640 on the 29th and on the 30th, Bronco was handed over to the ARVN during a brief ceremony . 1 July saw operation Finney Hill being terminated.

In July 71 things in the Battalion AO remained quiet and on 9 July MG Frederick J Kroesen took command of the Division with the mission of eventual deactivation of the Division by the end of the year.

Action continued to be light as July 71 began. On the first of July the Recon platoon in the vicinity of BS526647 observed three VC with packs and one who had a weapon. The platoon engaged them with small arms fire and killed one male and captured a personal hygiene kit, 200 pounds of polished rice. They followed the blood trail and found a 9mm pistol which were sent back to the "Hill." The 174th Aviation gunships while covering B

company at BS463528 observed 5 VC/NVA and received 30 rounds of small arms fire . The returned the fire and called in artillery and then inserted the first platoon of B company to check the area. The platoon found fresh foot prints and 100 rusty rice knives which were back hauled to the "Hill." 3 July saw a man from A company slip and fall into a punji pit at BS503633 and he was evacuated to FSB 411. A flame drop for the battalion on the 4th of July resulted in 70 drums falling into the area and all ignited . Two secondary explosions were noted . At least there was some fire works on the 4th that year. That evening the sniper with A company at BS485615 spotted 4 VC at about 1,000 meters which he engaged and believed he hit one. The sniper rifle that he was using had a maximum effective range of 1,200 meters in the tests that had been conducted in 1967 and 1968 at Fort Benning.

The following day everyone was getting ready to ride out typhoon Harriet, which hit the coast later. On the 7th of July C company had to evacuate a man with food poisoning from BS464465 and the jungle penetrator lift had to be used to get him out. The 8th of July saw the enemy concentrate his actions against the villages. The village at BS513777 took fire from both small arms and mortar fire and claimed they killed 15 VC . The 4.2 platoon on the "Hill" provided illumination for the village. Later gun ships were requested as the village of Son Tinh was receiving heavy fire from the vicinity of BS517774 and BS520775 and they reported that the hamlet of Van Tinh conducted an ambush killing one VC and capturing one M-16 rifle and CHICOM grenades. On 9 July the first platoon of A company at BS554754 received 30-40 rounds of automatic fire which was returned by the platoon with negative results. The 10th of July D company in the vicinity of BS526687 checked out 7 VN males and two VN females . Since none of them had any ID they were sent to Nghia. The Brigade and those elements located on FSB Dottie got to see the USO show that evening. The Battalion sniper team from BS506746 observed a VC with a pack crossing the river which they killed.

On the 11th, C company found an 81 mm mortar illuminating round at BS459663 and destroyed it. All the companies were advised that Typhoon Kim would hit Da Nang and winds of up 30 knots with rain could be

expected in the AO. A company had to evacuate a man on the 12th who was dizzy and had a hard time seeing. The report didn't say whether these symptoms were caused by drugs or a medical reason. The next day saw a man evacuated from A company and turn himself in to the drug amnesty program as the man had taken an over dose of drugs and was sent to Chu Lai. Again on the 14th a man from B company was evacuated from BS547648 with a rash on his chest and arms. Finally on the next three days the companies were productive when on the 16th at BS515678, A company found an NVA base camp with three caves. The following day A company found two M-60 mm mortar rounds which they destroyed at BS503697 and A company received 6-7 rounds of mortar fire without any damage at BS523676. They called in artillery fire with unknown results except they didn't get any more fire that night. On 18 July 71 the Battalion sniper team engaged 3 VC at BS505744 resulting in 3 VC killed and A company found five bunkers with one RPG and one Bangalore at BS522666 which they destroyed in place. The next day A company found five more bunkers at BS524671 which had batteries, bandages, a sight for some kind of weapon and one French submachine gun. It was quiet through the 23rd except when a man from the sniper team while at BS515733 was wounded from his own blasting cap which he was getting ready to use.

On the 24th of July two tubes and crews from the 4.2 mortar platoon and a rifle platoon from C company made an Combat assault to BS306670 where they set up a mini FSB. On the 25th of July the Battalion continued Eagle flights and the companies started to rotate to Chu Lai for stand down. The land clearing operations by the Division Engineers was completed on the 26th of July. The Battalion continued search and denial operations with little or no enemy encounters. On 4 August B company move to Chu Lai for rest and retraining, and on the 7th of August the Recon platoon had three men injured by punji stakes and on 10 August C company had one man injured by punji stakes. Except for 11 August when C company at BS490630 received small arms fire resulting in 3 men wounded and evacuated, the Battalion AO remained quiet until the 15th when A company went to Minh Long to participate in a combined operation with the 4th ARVN regiment. On the 16th of August B company moved to LZ Eagle at BS729328 without incident. As B company conducted operations in the

vicinity of BS758327 on the 18th, they engaged five NVA killing two. They found a series of caves and a telegraph set up in one with ground wire leading north.

On 19 August the Battalion passed from LTC J B Luke to LTC T McClain although they never met. B company, meanwhile, found a VC that had been killed previously at BS753327. Tragedy struck the Recon platoon on the 21st of August while at BS524738. The platoon saw movement and since it was dark engaged the movement with M-60 machine-gun fire hitting the platoon medic who was securing the platoons rear. Lt Barnes of E company conducted the investigation, however SP4 Michael Guidry died at the 91st Evac hospital at Chu Lai. A company at 0930 hours on the 24th of August at BS514597 found a cave which had one SKS rifle, one MAS-36 carbine, two U.S. steel helmets, ammunition and some documents. In a short fire fight with 8-10 NVA, A company on 25 August 71 at BS514597 had SGT Bobby F. Limerick killed and two men wounded and evacuated with unknown enemy casualties. Gunships were called in to provide fire support but their fire was without any effect. The 27th, while on patrol, A company while at BS496576 observed 8-10 VC and engaged with small arms and artillery fire with out any known damage to the VC but the company had three men wounded and evacuated . The following morning in the same area A company found a 155 artillery round and a 105 artillery round which were booby trapped. They destroyed both in place . Later in the day D company at BS641573 had the sniffer dog find two booby trapped 60mm mortar rounds which they destroyed.

The 30th of August saw the Battalion sniper team engage four VC killing one at BS537761. On the last day of August, A company began providing Engineer security and B company finished up its tour of land clearing security. D company meanwhile after a combat assault into BS478701, two soldiers set off a booby trapped 105 artillery round wounding one man in the chest and right side who was evacuated and the other man received minor wounds which were treated in the area. Patrolling continued and until 5 September no significant action occurred until the Battalion sniper team engaged 3 VC at BS501744 resulting in 2 VC killed and one individual weapon captured. Later that day a VN civilian had to be

evacuated because a round exploded in the trash pile injuring him in the stomach. On the 8th of September 71, B company at BS613555 detonated a booby trap resulting in 3 men wounded and evacuated. Later a man from C company had to be evacuated to Chu Lai with a ruptured appendix he was evacuated by the resupply ship instead of waiting for a Dust Off ship. On 9 September A, B, and D companies were extracted from security positions along the Minh Long - Nghia Hanmh road and combat assaulted to vicinity of FSB Colt 45 at BS298807, the Recon platoon and the 4.2 platoon left the "Hill" to FSB Colt 45 by CH 47 aircraft without incident.

Action picked up when on 11 September 71, D company at BS339801 received small arms fire resulting in 1 U.S. wounded and evacuated and SP4 Alfred Tuttle killed by small arms fire. The 123 Aviation supported the action and its gun ships accounted for one NVA killed. On the 12th, A company had one soldier wounded by punji stakes at BS310811. The following day, D company found a cave at BS332799 containing rice soup, ammunition, claymores and NVA uniforms. All were destroyed in place. On 16 September, D Company on a search and clear mission at BS334796 received small arms fire resulting in 4 soldiers wounded and evacuated. The gunships supporting the action evacuated the wounded. Again the Battalion sniper team scored on 19 September 71 at BS520750 killing one VC and capturing one individual weapon. On 21 September, A company and some artillery tubes left FSB Colt 45 at BS299806 and opened a new fire support base at BS645840 while B and C companies and C company of the 1st Battalion 52 Infantry conducted combat assaults into the Song Ve Valley area. D company returned to the "Hill" to secure FSB 411. Six days later on 25 September 71, B company at BS611577 engaged 2 VC resulting in 1 VC killed and one individual weapon captured. Also captured were two magazines and a rucksack with CHICOM handgrenade's. On 28 September action picked up as Recon Platoon engaged 3 VC at BS352732 resulting in one VC killed and one weapon captured. Then on the 29th of September, D company on a sweep at BS630530 found a mess hall with picnic tables and bunkers which were destroyed.

The 11th Brigade was drawing down and deactivating but our D Btry was kept busy as three tubes were sent to FSB Crunch at BS535515 and then



on 11 September those tubes and one section from FSB 411 were air moved to FSB Colt 45 at BS2976807 . The 22nd of September saw three sections moved from Colt 45 to FSB Lobo and one section came back to the "Hill." On 1 October, B company went from BS646538 back to the "Hill," C company went from BS632557 to BS671571 and provided security for the drawdown and D company went from the "Hill" to BS646538 to replace B company. On the 3rd of October the Battalion sniper team located at BS509749 spotted ten NVA or VC and took them under fire and possibly killed two. The next day on the 4th, D company moved to Phoenix, a new FSB at BS645539. The Battalions equipment was being sent along with the elements and being deactivated as on the 5th of October the Recon platoon went to Chu Lai and on the 6th, C and D companies were sent to Chu Lai for draw down. October saw D Battery move the three sections from Lobo to Chu Lai and were deactivated and finally on 6 October 71, their remaining three sections from FSB 411 were lifted to Chu Lai and deactivated. On 7 October at 1220 hours it was reported to the 11th Brigade that all U.S. personnel were clear of FSB 411. The "Hill" was no longer home for the 3rd Battalion 1st Infantry as the Battalion left Fire Support Base 411 for the last time and went to Chu Lai where the Battalion was deactivated and the colors sent home. The equipment was turned into the Division Supply Battalion and the Officers and men were sent to other MACV units or sent back to the land of the big PX.

Since this is only an outline of facts as shown in official reports, I challenge all the members to help and fill in the personal details which when I receive them I will put them into change sheets and send them out to the individuals who have copies of this history and will be incorporated into the history of The "Hill".

## **Appendix A**

WINDER, DAVID F.

Rank and organization: Private First Class, U.S. Army, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3d Battalion, 1st Infantry, 11th Infantry Brigade, Americal Division. Place and date: Republic of Vietnam, 13 May 1970. Entered service at : Columbus, Ohio. Born: 10 August 1946, Edinboro, Pa. Citation: Pfc Winder distinguished himself while serving in the Republic of Vietnam as a senior medical aidman with Company A. After moving through freshly cut rice paddies in search of a suspected company-size enemy force, the unit started a thorough search of the area. Suddenly they were engaged with intense automatic weapons and rocket propelled grenade fire by a well entrenched enemy force. Several friendly soldiers fell wounded in the initial contact and the unit was pinned down. Responding instantly to the cries of his wounded comrades, Pfc. Winder began maneuvering across approximately 100 meters of open, bullet-swept terrain toward the nearest casualty. Unarmed and crawling most of the distance, he was wounded by enemy fire before reaching his comrades. Despite his wounds and with great effort, Pfc Winder reached the first casualty and administered medical aid. As he continued to crawl across the open terrain toward a second wounded soldier he was forced to stop when wounded a second time. Aroused by the cries of an injured comrade for aid, Pfc. Winder's great determination and sense of duty impelled him to move forward once again, despite his wounds, in a courageous attempt to reach and assist the injured man. After struggling to within 10 meters of the man, Pfc Winder was mortally wounded. His dedication and sacrifice inspired his unit to initiate an aggressive counter assault which led to the defeat of the enemy. Pfc Winder's conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the cost of his life were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him, his unit and the U.S. Army.

## Abbreviations

AO - Area of operations  
APC - Armored Personnel Carrier  
CHICOM - Chinese Communist  
CMH - Congressional Medal of Honor  
CSWC - Crew Served Weapon Captured  
Charlie Charlie - Command Helicopter  
Dust Off - Medical Evacuation Helicopter  
Gunship - Armed Helicopter with 40mm rockets and Machineguns  
IWC - Individual Weapon Captured  
KIA - Killed in Action  
KBA Killed by Artillery  
KCS - Kit Carson Scout; a Vietnamese Trained Scout used with US forces.  
LOH - Light Observation Helicopter  
MAM - Military Aged Male  
MF - Main Force  
NVA - North Vietnamese Army  
PETNA - An explosive substance  
RPG - Rocket Propelled Grenade ( anti personnel and anti armor)  
RF - Regional Force  
RD - Regional District Police  
SAMPAN - Vietnamese Boat which was either wood or made from buffalo grass  
SHADOW- Air force C130 Gunship  
SMOKEY - Air force C130 Flare Ship  
TOC - Tactical Operation Center  
UNSEF - Unknown Sized Enemy Force  
VC - Viet Cong  
VCS - Viet Cong Suspect  
VCMF - Viet Cong Main Force  
VCLF - Viet Cong Local Force  
VIP - Vietnamese Information Program ( turn in or obtain information on enemy weapons, locations or booby traps )  
VN - Vietnamese National Civilian  
WIA - Wounded in Action

## **Fire Support Base Locations**

San Juan Hill- BS634380

Crunch - BS534516

Bronco - BS812383

Debbie - BS872324

Gator - BS568961

Stinson - BS539824

Cork - BS448617

For information on the Hill 411 History. Contact Hill 411 Association Treasurer Dick Hill at 630 Woodside Drive Kent, Ohio 44240-2664 or [ffd749@aol.com](mailto:ffd749@aol.com)